

REMAINS

OF

KIRKE WHITE,
OF NOTTINGHAM,

T. WISCOLL, JR., CAMBRIDGE

AND OF HIS

LIFE,

JBL. SOUT. EY.

But for me no songster sings,
For me no joyous lark up-springs;
For I, confined in gloomy scholastic
Must own the pedant's iron rule,
And, far from sylvan shades and bowers
In durance vile must pass the hours,
There e'en the scholiast's dream,
Where no bright ray of genius gleams,
And close to rugged learning hangs,
While laughs around the jocund pranks

How gladly would my soul forgo
All that arithmeticians know,
Or stiff grammarians quaintly teach,
Or all that industry can reach,
To taste each morn of all the joys
That with the laughing sun arise;
And unconstrain'd to rove at will
The bushy brakes and glens among;
And woo the Muse's gentle power,
In unfrequented rural bowers
But, ah! such heaven-approved joys
Will never greet my longing eyes,
Still will they chide in vision true,
Yet never but in fancy shine

Oh, that I were the little wren
That shrilly chirps from yonder green;
Oh, far away I then would fly
To some secluded bushy grove;
There hop and sing with careless glee,
Hop and sing at liberty;
And till death should stop my lays,
Far from men would spend my days

About this time his mother was induced, advice of several friends, to open a Ladies' Reading and Day School in Nottingham, her eldest daughter having previously been a teacher in one for some time. In this she succeeded beyond her most sanguine expectations, and Henry's home comforts were thus materially increased, though it was

out of the power of his family to give him that education and direction in life which his talents deserved and required.

It was now determined to breed him up to the hosiery trade, the staple manufacture of his native place; and at the age of fourteen he was placed in a stocking-loom, with the view, at some future period, of getting a situation in a hosier's warehouse. During the time that he was thus employed, he might be said to be truly unhappy, he went to his work with evident reluctance, and could not refrain from sometimes hinting his extreme aversion to it, but the circumstances of his family obliged them to turn a deaf ear. * His mother,

* His temper and tone of mind at this period, when he was in his fourteenth year, are displayed in this extract from an Address to Contemplation.

THOU do I own, the prompter of my joys,
 The soother of my cares, inspiring peace,
 And I will ne'er forsake thee. — Men may rave,
 And blame and censure me, that I don't tie
 My ev'ry thought down to the desk, and spend
 The morning of my life in adding figures
 With accurate monotony; that so
 The good things of the world may be my lot,
 And I may taste the blessedness of wealth.
 But, oh! I was not made for money-getting,
 For me no much-respected plume awaits,
 Nor civic honour, cried. — For as still
 I tried to cast with school dexterity
 The interesting sums, my vagrant thoughts
 Would quick revert to many a woodland haunt,
 Which fond remembrance cherish'd, and the pen
 Dropt from my senseless fingers as I pictured,
 In my mind's eye, how on the shores of Trent
 I erewhile wand'ring with my early friends
 In social intercourse. And then I'd think
 How contrary pursuits had thrown us wide,
 One from the other, scatter'd o'er the globe,
 They were set down with sober steadiness,
 Each to his occupation. I alone,
 A wayward youth, misled by Fancy's vagaries,
 Remain'd unsettled, insecure, and reeling
 With ev'ry wind to ev'ry point o' th' compass.
 Yes, in the counting-house I could indulge
 In fits of close abstraction: yea, amid

however, secretly felt that he was worthy of better things : to her he spoke more openly ; he could not bear, he said, the thought of spending seven years of his life in shining and folding up stockings ; he wanted *something to occupy his brain*, and he should be wretched if he continued longer at this trade, or indeed in any thing except one of the learned professions. These frequent complaints, after a year's application, or rather misapplication, (as his brother says,) at the loom, convinced her that he had a mind destined for nobler pursuits.

To one so situated, and with nothing but his own talents and exertions to depend upon, the Law

The busy, bustling crowds could meditate,
And send my thoughts ten thousand leagues away
Beyond the Atlantic, resting on my friend.
Aye, Contemplation, ev'n in earliest youth
I woo'd thy heavenly influence ! I would walk
A weary way when all my toils were done,
To lay myself at night in some lone wood,
And hear the sweet song of the nightingale.
Oh, those were times of happiness, and still
To memory doubly dear ; for growing years
Had not then taught me man was made to mourn ;
And a short hour of solitary pleasure,
Stolen from sleep, was ample recompence
For all the hateful bustles of the day.
My op'ning mind was ductile then, and plastic,
And soon the marks of care were worn away,
While I was sway'd by every novel impulse,
Yielding to all the fancies of the hour.
But it has now assumed its character ;
Mark'd by strong lineaments, its haughty tone,
Like the firm oak, would sooner break than bend.
Yet still, oh, Contemplation ! I do love
To indulge thy solemn musings ; still the same
With thee alone I know to melt and weep,
In thee alone delighting. Why along
The dusky track of commerce should I toil,
When, with an easy competence content,
I can alone be happy ; where, with thee,
I may enjoy the loveliness of Nature,
And loose the wings of Fancy ! — Thus alone
Can I partake of happiness on earth ;
And to be happy here is man's chief end,
For to be happy he must needs be good.

seemed to be the only practicable line. His affectionate and excellent mother made every possible effort to effect his wishes, his father being very averse to the plan, and at length, after overcoming a variety of obstacles, he was fixed in the office of Messrs. Coldham and Enfield, attorneys and town-clerks of Nottingham. As no premium could be given with him, he was engaged to serve two years before he was articled; so that, though he entered this office when he was fifteen, he was not articled till the commencement of the year 1802.

On his thus entering the law, it was recommended to him by his employers that he should endeavour to obtain some knowledge of Latin. He had now only the little time which an attorney's office, in very extensive practice, afforded; but great things may be done in "those hours of leisure which even the busiest may create *," and to his ardent mind no obstacles were too discouraging. He received some instruction in the first rudiments of this language from a person who then resided at Nottingham under a feigned name, but was soon obliged to leave it, to elude the search of government, who were then seeking to secure him. Henry discovered him to be Mr. Cormick, from a print affixed to a continuation of Hume and Smollett, and published, with their histories, by Cooke. He is, I believe, the same person who wrote a life of Burke. If he received any other assistance it was very trifling; yet, in the course of ten months, he enabled himself to read Horace with tolerable facility, and had made some progress in Greek, which indeed he began first. He used to exercise himself in declining the Greek nouns and verbs as he was going to and from the office, so valuable was time become to him. From this time he contracted a habit of employing his mind in study during his walks, which he continued to the end of his life.

He now became almost estranged from his fa-

* Turner's Preface to the History of the Anglo-Saxons

mily ; even at his meals he would be reading, and his evenings were entirely devoted to intellectual improvement. He had a little room given him, which was called his study ; and here his milk supper was taken up to him ; for, to avoid any loss of time, he refused to sup with his family, though earnestly entreated so to do, as his mother already began to dread the effects of this severe and unremitting application. The law was his first pursuit, to which his papers show he had applied himself with such industry, as to make it wonderful that he could have found time, busied as his days were, for any thing else. Greek and Latin were the next objects : at the same time he made himself a tolerable Italian scholar, and acquired some knowledge both of the Spanish and Portuguese. His medical friends say that the knowledge he had obtained of chemistry was very respectable. Astronomy and electricity were among his studies. Some attention he paid to drawing, in which it is probable he would have excelled. He was passionately fond of music, and could play very pleasingly by ear on the piano-forte, composing the bass to the air he was playing ; but this propensity he checked, lest it might interfere with more important objects. He had a turn for mechanics, and all the fittings up of his study were the work of his own hands.

At a very early age, indeed soon after he was taken from school, Henry was ambitious of being admitted a member of a Literary Society then existing in Nottingham, but was objected to on account of his youth. After repeated attempts and repeated failures he succeeded in his wish, through the exertions of some of his friends, and was elected. There were six Professors in this Society ; and, upon the first vacancy, he was appointed to the chair of Literature. It may well appear strange that a Society, in so large a town as Nottingham, instituted for the purpose of acquiring and diffusing knowledge, and respectable enough to be provided with a good philosophical apparatus, should have

chosen a boy, in the fifteenth year of his age, to deliver lectures to them upon general literature. The first subject upon which he held forth was Genius. Having taken a day to consider the subject, he spoke upon it extempore, and harangued for two hours and three quarters: yet, instead of being wearied, his hearers passed an unanimous resolution, "That the most sincere thanks be given to the Professor for his most instructive and entertaining lecture; at the same time assuring him, that the Society never had the pleasure of hearing a better lecture delivered from that chair, which he so much honoured:" and they then elected him one of their committee. There are certain courts at Nottingham, in which it is necessary for an attorney to plead; and he wished to qualify himself for a speaker as well as a sound lawyer.

With the profession in which he was placed he was well pleased, and suffered no pursuit, numerous as his pursuits were, to interfere in the slightest degree with its duties. Yet he soon began to have higher aspirations, and to cast a wistful eye toward the Universities, with little hope of ever attaining their important advantages, yet probably not without some, however faint. There was at this time a magazine in publication, called the Monthly Preceptor, which proposed prize-themes for boys and girls to write upon; and which was encouraged by many schoolmasters, some of whom, for their own credit, and that of the important institutions in which they were placed, ought to have known better than to encourage it. But in schools, and in all practical systems of education, emulation is made the mainspring, as if there were not enough of the leaven of disquietude in our natures, without inoculating it with this dilutement — this *vaccine virus* of envy. True it is, that we need encouragement in youth; that though our vices spring up and thrive in shade and darkness, like poisonous fungi, our better powers require light and air; and that praise is the sunshine, without which genius will wither, fade, and die; or rather, in search of which,

like a plant that is debarred from it, will push forth in contortions and deformity. But such practices as that of writing for public prizes, of publicly declaiming, and of enacting plays before the neighbouring gentry, teach boys to look for applause instead of being satisfied with approbation, and foster in them that vanity which needs no such cherishing. This is administering stimulants to the heart, instead of "feeding it with food convenient for it;" and the effect of such stimulants is to dwarf the human mind, as lap-dogs are said to be stopt in their growth by being dosed with gin. Thus *forced*, it becomes like the sapling which shoots up when it should be striking its roots far and deep, and which therefore never attains to more than a sapling's size.

To Henry, however, the opportunity of distinguishing himself, even in the Juvenile Library, was useful; if he had acted with a man's foresight, he could not have done more wisely than by aiming at every distinction within his little sphere. At the age of fifteen, he gained a silver medal for a translation from Horace; and the following year a pair of twelve-inch globes, for an imaginary Tour from London to Edinburgh. He determined upon trying for this prize one evening when at tea with his family, and at supper he read to them his performance, to which seven pages were granted in the magazine, though they had limited the allowance of room to three. Shortly afterwards he won several books for exercises on different subjects. Such honours were of great importance to him; they were testimonies of his ability, which could not be suspected of partiality, and they prepared his father to regard with less reluctance that change in his views and wishes which afterwards took place. It appears by a letter written soon after he had completed his fifteenth year, that many of his pieces in prose and verse, under feigned signatures, had gained admission in the various magazines of the day, more particularly in the Monthly Magazine and the Monthly Visitor: "In prosaic composi-

tion," he says, "I never had one article refused : in poetic, many."—"I am conscious," he observes, at this time, to his brother, "that if I chose, I could produce poems infinitely superior to any you have yet seen of mine; but I am so indolent, and at the same time so much engaged, that I cannot give the time and attention necessary for the formation of correct and accurate pieces." Less time and attention are necessary for correcting prose; and this may be one reason why, contrary to the usual process, a greater prematurity is discernible in his prose than in his metrical compositions. "The reason," he says, "of the number of erasures and corrections in my letter is, that it contains a rough transcript of the state of my mind, without my having made any sketch on another paper. When I sit down to write, ideas crowd into my mind too fast for utterance upon paper. Some of them I think too precious to be lost, and for fear their impressions should be effaced, I write as rapidly as possible. This accounts for my bad writing."

He now became a correspondent in the *Monthly Mirror*, a magazine which first set the example of typographical neatness in periodical publications, which has given the world a good series of portraits, and which deserves praise also on other accounts, having among its contributors some persons of extensive erudition and acknowledged talents. Magazines are of great service to those who are learning to write; they are fishing-boats, which the Buccaneers of Literature do not condescend to sink, burn, and destroy: young poets may safely try their strength in them; and that they should try their strength before the public, without danger of any shame from failure, is highly desirable. Henry's rapid improvement was now as remarkable as his unwearied industry. The pieces which had been rewarded in the *Juvenile Preceptor* might have been rivalled by many boys; but what he produced a year afterwards, few men could equal. Those which appeared in the *Monthly Mirror* attracted some notice, and introduced him to the acquaint-

ance of Mr. Capel Loft, and of Mr. Hill, the proprietor of the work, a gentleman who was himself a lover of English literature, and who possessed one of the most copious collections of English poetry in existence. Their encouragement induced him, about the close of the year 1802, to prepare a little volume of poems for the press. It was his hope that this publication might, either by the success of its sale, or the notice which it might excite, enable him to prosecute his studies at college, and fit himself for holy orders. For, though so far was he from feeling any dislike to his own profession, that he was even attached to it, and had indulged a hope that one day or other he should make his way to the Bar, a deafness, to which he had always been subject, and which appeared to grow progressively worse, threatened to preclude all possibility of advancement; and his opinions, which had at one time inclined to infidelity, had now taken a strong devotional bias.

Henry was earnestly advised to obtain, if possible, some patroness for his book, whose rank in life, and notoriety in the literary world, might afford it some protection. The days of such dedications are happily well nigh at an end; but this was of importance to him, as giving his little volume consequence in the eyes of his friends and townsmen. The Countess of Derby was first applied to, and the manuscript was submitted to her perusal. She returned it with a refusal, upon the ground that it was an invariable rule with her never to accept a compliment of the kind; but this refusal was couched in language as kind as it was complimentary, and he felt more pleasure at the kindness which it expressed, than disappointment at the failure of his application: a *2l.* note was enclosed as her subscription to the work. The Margravine of Anspach was also thought of. There is among his papers the draught of a letter addressed to her upon the subject, but I believe it was never sent. He was then recommended to apply to the Duchess of Devonshire. Poor Henry felt a fit repugnance at

courting patronage in this way, but he felt that it was of consequence in his little world, and submitted; and the manuscript was left with a letter at Devonshire House, as it had been with the Countess of Derby. Some time elapsed, and no answer arrived from her Grace; and, as she was known to be pestered with such applications, apprehensions began to be entertained for the safety of the papers. His brother Neville (who was now settled in London) called several times; of course he never obtained an interview: the case at last became desperate, and he went with a determination not to quit the house till he had obtained them. After waiting four hours in the servants' hall, his perseverance conquered their idle insolence, and he got possession of the manuscript. And here he, as well as his brother, sick of "dancing attendance" upon the great, would have relinquished all thoughts of the dedication, but they were urged to make one more trial;—a letter to her Grace was procured, with which Neville obtained audience, wisely leaving the manuscript at home: and the Duchess, with her usual good nature, gave permission that the volume should be dedicated to her. Accordingly her name appeared in the title-page, and a copy was transmitted to her in due form, and in its due morocco livery,—of which no notice was ever taken. Involved as she was in an endless round of miserable follies, it is probable that she never opened the book, otherwise her heart was good enough to have felt a pleasure in encouraging the author. Oh, what a lesson would the history of that heart hold out!

Henry sent his little volume to each of the then existing Reviews, and accompanied it with a letter, wherein he stated what his disadvantages had been, and what were the hopes which he proposed to himself from the publication: requesting from them that indulgence of which his productions did not stand in need, and which it might have been thought, under such circumstances, would not have been withheld from works of less promise. It may be

well conceived with what anxiety he looked for their opinions, and with what feelings he read the following article in the *Monthly Review* for February, 1804.

Monthly Review, February, 1804.

"The circumstances under which this little volume is offered to the public, must, in some measure, disarm criticism. We have been informed that Mr White has scarcely attained his eighteenth year, has hitherto exerted himself in the pursuit of knowledge under the discouragements of penury and misfortune, and now hopes, by this early authorship, to obtain some assistance in the prosecution of his studies at Cambridge. He appears, indeed, to be one of those young men of talents and application who merit encouragement; and it would be gratifying to us to hear that this publication had obtained for him a respectable patron, for we fear that the mere profit arising from the sale cannot be, in any measure, adequate to his exigencies as a student at the university. A subscription, with a statement of the particulars of the author's case, might have been calculated to have answered his purpose; but, as a book which is to 'win its way' on the sole ground of its own merit, this poem cannot be contemplated with any sanguine expectation. The author is very anxious, however, that critics should find in it something to commend, and he shall not be disappointed: we commend his exertions, and his laudable endeavours to excel; but we cannot compliment him with having learnt the difficult art of writing good poetry.

"Such lines as these will sufficiently prove our assertion:

'Here would I run, a visionary *Boy*,
When the hoarse thunder shook the vaulted *Sky*,
And fancy-led, beheld the Almighty's form
Sternly *career*ing in the eddy'ing storm.'

"If Mr. White should be instructed by *Alma-mater*, he will, doubtless, produce better sense and better rhymes."

I know not who was the writer of this precious article. It is certain that Henry could have no personal enemy : his volume fell into the hands of some dull man, who took it up in an hour of ill humour, turned over the leaves to look for faults, and finding that *Boy* and *Sky* were not orthodox rhymes, according to his wise canons of criticism, sat down to blast the hopes of a boy, who had confessed to him all his hopes and all his difficulties, and thrown himself upon his mercy. With such a letter before him, (by mere accident I saw that which had been sent to the Critical Review,) even though the poems had been bad, a good man would not have said so : he would have avoided censure, if he had found it impossible to bestow praise. But that the reader may perceive the wicked injustice, as well as the cruelty of this reviewal, a few specimens of the volume, thus contemptuously condemned because *Boy* and *Sky* are used as rhymes in it, shall be inserted in this place.

TO THE HERB ROSEMARY.*

1.

SWEET scented flower ! who art wont to bloom
On January's front severe,
And o'er the wintry desert drear
To waft thy waste perfume !
Come, thou shalt form my nosegay now,
And I will bind thee round my brow ;
And as I twine the mournful wreath,
I'll weave a melancholy song :
And sweet the strain shall be and long,
The melody of death.

2.

Come, funeral flow'r ! who lov'st to dwell
With the pale corse in lonely tomb,

* The Rosemary buds in January. It is the flower commonly put in the coffins of the dead.

And throw across the desert gloom
 A sweet decaying smell.
 Come, press my lips, and lie with me
 Beneath the lowly Alder tree,
 And we will sleep a pleasant sleep,
 And not a care shall dare intrude,
 To break the marble solitude,
 So peaceful and so deep.

3.

And hark ! the wind-god, as he flies,
 Moans hollow in the forest trees,
 And sailing on the gusty breeze,
 Mysterious music dies.
 Sweet flower ! that requiem wild is mine,
 It warns me to the lonely shrine,
 The cold turf altar of the dead ;
 My grave shall be in yon lone spot,
 Where as I lie, by all forgot,
 A dying fragrance thou wilt o'er my ashes shed

TO THE MORNING.

WRITTEN DURING ILLNESS.

BEAMS of the day-break faint ! I hail
 Your dubious hues, as on the robe
 Of night, which wraps the slumbering globe,
 I mark your traces pale.
 Tired with the taper's sickly light,
 And with the wearying, number'd night,
 I hail the streaks of morn divine :
 And lo ! they break between the dewy wreaths
 That round my rural casement twine :
 The fresh gale o'er the green lawn breathes ;
 It fans my feverish brow,—it calms the mental strife,
 And cheerily re-illumes the lambent flame of life.
 The lark has her gay song begun,
 She leaves her grassy nest,

And sears till the *unrisen sun*
Gleams on her speckled breast.
Now let me leave my restless bed,
And o'er the spangled uplands tread ;
Now through the custom'd wood-walk wend ;
By many a green lane lies my way,
Where high o'er head the wild briars bend,
Till on the mountain's summit grey,
I sit me down, and mark the glorious dawn of day

Oh, Heav'n ! the soft refreshing gale
It breathes into my breast !
My sunk eye gleams, my cheek, so pale,
Is with new colours drest.
Blithe Health ! thou soul of life and ease !
Come thou too on the balmy breeze,
Invigorate my frame :
I'll join with thee the bushy'd chace,
With thee the distant clime will trace,
Beyond those clouds of flame.

Above, below, what charms unfold
In all the varied view ?
Before me all is burnish'd gold,
Behind, the twilight's hue.
The mists which on old Night await,
Far to the west they hold their state,
They shun the clear blue face of Morn
Along the fine cerulean sky,
The fleecy clouds successive fly,
While bright prismatic beams their shadowy folds
adorn.

And hark ! the Thatcher has begun
His whistle on the eaves,
And oft the Hedger's bill is heard
Among the rustling leaves.
The slow team creaks upon the road,
The noisy whip resounds,
The driver's voice, his carol blithe,
The mower's stroke, his whetting scythe,
Mix with the morning's sounds.

Who would not rather take his seat
 Beneath these clumps of trees,
 The early dawn of day to greet,
 And catch the healthy breeze,
 Than on the silken couch of Sloth
 Luxurious to lie?

Who would not from life's dreary waste
 Snatch, when he could, with eager haste,
 An interval of joy?

To him who simply thus recounts
 The morning's pleasures o'er,
 Fate dooms, ere long, the scene must close
 To open on him no more.

Yet, Morning! unrepining still
 He'll greet thy beams awhile;
 And surely thou, when o'er his grave
 Solemn the whispering willows wave,
 Wilt sweetly on him smile;

And the pale glow-worm's pensive light
 Will guide his ghostly walks in the drear moonless
 night.

An author is proof against reviewing, when, like myself, he has been reviewed some seventy times, but the opinion of a reviewer, upon his first publication, has more effect, both upon his feelings and his success, than it ought to have, or would have, if the mystery of the *ungentle craft* were more generally understood. Henry wrote to the editor to complain of the cruelty with which he had been treated. This remonstrance produced the following answer in the next number:—

Monthly Review, March, 1804

ADDRESS TO CORRESPONDENTS

“ In the course of our long critical labours we have necessarily been forced to encounter the resentment, or withstand the lamentations, of many disappointed authors; but we have seldom, if ever, been more affected than by a letter from Mr. White,

his opinions and conduct, if Henry would allow the Bible to be the word of truth and the standard of appeal. Upon this, Henry exclaimed in a tone of strong emotion:—"Good God, you surely regard me in a worse light than I deserve!"—His friend proceeded to say, that what he had said was from a conviction that they had no common ground on which to contend, Henry having more than once suggested, that the book of *Isaiah* was an *epic*, and that of *Job* a *dramatic*, poem. He then stated what the change was which had taken place in his own views and intentions, and the motives for his present conduct. From the manner in which Henry listened, it became evident that his mind was ill at ease, and that he was no ways satisfied with himself. His friend, therefore, who had expected to be assailed in a tone of triumphant superiority by one in the pride and youthful confidence of great intellectual powers, and, as yet, ignorant of his own ignorance, found himself unexpectedly called upon to act the monitor; and, putting to his hands Scott's "*Force of Truth*," which was lying on the table, entreated him to take it with him, and peruse it at his leisure.

The book produced little effect, and was returned with disapprobation. Men differ as much in mind as in countenance: some are to be awakened by passionate exhortation, or vehement reproof, appealing to their fears and exciting their imagination; others yield to force of argument, or, upon slow enquiry, to the accumulation of historical testimony and moral proofs; there are others, in whom the innate principle of our nature retains more of its original strength, and these are led by their inward monitor into the way of peace. Henry was of this class. His intellect might have been on the watch to detect a flaw in evidence, a defective argument, or an illogical inference; but, in his heart, he felt that there is no happiness, no rest, without religion; and in him who becomes willing to believe, the root of infidelity is destroyed. Mr. Almond was about to enter at Cambridge: on

the evening before his departure for the University, Henry requested that he would accompany him to the little room, which was called his study. "We had no sooner entered," says Mr. Almond, "than he burst into tears, and declared that his anguish of mind was insupportable. He entreated that I would kneel down and pray for him; and most cordially were our tears and supplications mingled at that interesting moment. When I took my leave, he exclaimed:—'What must I do!—You are the only friend to whom I can apply in this agonising state, and you are about to leave me. My literary associates are all inclined to deism. I have no one with whom I can communicate!'"

A new pursuit was thus opened to him, and he engaged in it with his wonted ardour. "It was a constant feature in his mind," says Mr. Pigott, "to persevere in the pursuit of what he deemed noble and important. Religion, in which he now appeared to himself not yet to have taken a step, engaged all his anxiety, as of all concerns the most important. He could not rest satisfied till he had formed his principles upon the basis of Christianity, and till he had begun in earnest to think and act agreeably to its pure and heavenly precepts. His mind loved to make distant excursions into the future and remote consequences of things. He no longer limited his views to the narrow confines of earthly existence; he was not happy till he had learnt to rest and expatiate in a world to come. What he said to me when we became intimate is worthy of observation: that, he said, which first made him dissatisfied with the creed he had adopted, and the standard of practice which he had set up for himself, was the *purity of mind* which he perceived was every where inculcated in the Holy Scriptures, and required of every one who would become a successful candidate for future blessedness. He had supposed that morality of conduct was all the purity required; but when he observed that purity of the very *thoughts* and *intentions* of the soul also was requisite, he was con-

vinced of his deficiencies, and could find no comfort to his penitence but in the atonement made for human frailty by the Redeemer of mankind; and no strength adequate to his weakness, and sufficient for resisting evil, but the aid of God's spirit, promised to those who seek them from above in the sincerity of earnest prayer."

From the moment when he had fully contracted these opinions, he was resolved upon devoting his life to the promulgation of them; and therefore to leave the law, and, if possible, place himself at one of the universities. Every argument was used by his friends to dissuade him from his purpose, but to no effect; his mind was unalterably fixed, and great and numerous as the obstacles were, he was determined to surmount them all. He had now served the better half of the term for which he was articled: his entrance and continuance in the profession had been a great expense to his family; and to give up this lucrative profession, in the study of which he had advanced so far, and situated as he was, for one wherein there was so little prospect of his obtaining even a decent competency, appeared to them the height of folly or of madness. This determination cost his poor mother many tears; but determined he was, and that by the best and purest motives. Without ambition he could not have existed; but his ambition now was to be eminently useful in the ministry.

It was Henry's fortune through his short life, as he was worthy of the kindest treatment, always to find it. His employers, Mr. Coldham and Mr. Enfield, listened with a friendly ear to his plans, and agreed to give up the remainder of his time, though it was now become very valuable to them, as soon as they should think his prospects of getting through the university were such as he might reasonably trust to; but, till then, they felt themselves bound, for his own sake, to detain him. Mr. Dashwood, a clergyman, who at that time resided in Nottingham, exerted himself in his favour: he had a friend at Queen's college, Cambridge, who mentioned him to

one of the fellows of St. John's, and that gentleman, on the representations made to him of Henry's talents and piety, spared no effort to obtain for him an adequate support.

As soon as these hopes were held out to him, his employers gave him a month's leave of absence, for the benefit of uninterrupted study, and of change of air, which his health now began to require. Instead of going to the sea-coast, as was expected, he chose for his retreat the village of Wilford, which is situated on the banks of the Trent, and at the foot of Clifton Woods. These woods had ever been his favourite place of resort, and were the subject of the longest poem in his little volume, from which, indeed, the volume was named. He delighted to point out to his more intimate friends the scenery of this poem; the islet to which he had often forded when the river was not knee-deep, and the little hut wherein he had sat for hours, and sometimes all day long, reading or writing, or dreaming with his eyes open. He had sometimes wandered in these woods till night was far advanced, and used to speak with pleasure of having once been overtaken there by a thunder-storm at midnight, and watching the lightning over the river and the vale towards the town.

In this village his mother procured lodgings for him, and his place of retreat was kept secret, except from his nearest friends. Soon after the expiration of the month, intelligence arrived that the plans which had been formed in his behalf had entirely failed. He went immediately to his mother: "All my hopes," said he, "of getting to the University are now blasted; in preparing myself for it, I have lost time in my profession; I have much ground to get up, and, as I am determined not to be a *mediocre* attorney, I must endeavour to recover what I have lost." The consequence was, that he applied himself more severely than ever to his studies. He now allowed himself no time for relaxation, little for his meals, and scarcely any for sleep. He would read till one, two, three o'clock

in the morning; then throw himself on the bed, and rise again to his work at five, at the call of a *larum*, which he had fixed to a Dutch clock in his chamber. Many nights he never lay down at all. It was in vain that his mother used every possible means to dissuade him from this destructive application. In this respect, and in this only one, was Henry undutiful; and neither commands, nor tears, nor entreaties, could check his desperate and deadly ardour. At one time she went every night into his room, to put out his candle: as soon as he heard her coming up stairs, he used to hide it in a cupboard, throw himself into bed, and aſſect sleep while she was in the room; then, when all was quiet, rise again, and pursue his baneful studies.

"The night," says Henry, in one of his letters, "has been every thing to me, and did the world know how I have been indebted to the hours of repose, they would not wonder that night-images are, as they judge, so ridiculously predominant in my verses." During some of these midnight hours he indulged himself in complaining, but in such complaints that it is to be wished more of them had been found among his papers.

ODE ON DISAPPOINTMENT.

1.

Come, Disappointment, come!

Not in thy terrors clad;

Come in thy meekest, saddest guise;

Thy chastening rod but terrifies

The restless and the bad.

But I recline

Beneath thy shrine,

And round my brow resign'd, thy peaceful cypress
twine.

2.

Though Fancy flies away
 Before thy hollow tread,
 Yet Meditation, in her cell,
 Hears with faint eye the lingering knell,
 That tells her hopes are dead ;
 And though the tear
 By chance appear,
 Yet she can smile, and say, My all was not laid here.

3.

Come, Disappointment, come !
 Though from Hope's summit hurl'd,
 Still, rigid Nurse, thou art forgiven,
 For thou severe wert sent from heaven
 To wean me from the world :
 To turn my eye
 From vanity,
 And point to scenes of bliss that never, never die.

4.

What is this passing scene ?
 A peevish April day !
 A little sun — a little rain,
 And then night sweeps along the plain,
 And all things fade away.
 Man (soon discuss'd)
 Yields up his trust,
 And all his hopes and fears lie with him in the dust.

5.

Oh, what is beauty's power ?
 It flourishes and dies :
 Will the cold earth its silence break
 To tell how soft, how smooth a cheek
 Beneath its surface lies ?
 Mute, mute is all
 O'er beauty's fall ;
 Her praise resounds no more when mantled in her
 pall.

6.

The most beloved on earth
 Not long survives to-day :

So music past is obsolete,
 And yet 'twas sweet, 'twas passing sweet,
 But now 'tis gone away.
 Thus does the shade
 In memory fade,
 When in forsaken tomb the form beloved is laid

7.

Then since this world is vain,
 And volatile and fleet,
 Why should I lay up earthly joys,
 Where rust corrupts, and moth destroys,
 And cares and sorrows eat?
 Why fly from ill
 With anxious skill,
 When soon this hand will freeze, this throbbing
 heart be still?

8.

Come, Disappointment, come!
 Thou art not stern to me;
 Sad Mistress! I own thy sway,
 A votary sad in early day,
 I bend my knee to thee.
 From sun to sun
 My race will run,
 I only bow, and say, My God, thy will be done!

On another paper are a few lines, written probably
 in the freshness of his disappointment.

I DREAM no more — the vision flies away,
 And Disappointment * * * *
 There fell my hopes — I lost my all in this,
 My cherish'd all of visionary bliss
 Now hope farewell, farewell all joys below;
 Now welcome sorrow, and now welcome woe
 Plunge me in glooms * * * *

His health soon sunk under these habits: he be-
 came pale and thin, and at length had a sharp fit of
 sickness. On his recovery he wrote the following
 lines, in the churchyard of his favourite village —

LINES

WRITTEN IN WILFORD CHURCHYARD ON RECOVERY
FROM SICKNESS.

HERE would I wish to sleep. — This is the spot
Which I have long mark'd out to lay my bones in ;
Tired out and wearied with the riotous world,
Beneath this yew I would be sepulchred.
It is a lovely spot ! The sultry sun,
From his meridian height, endeavours vainly
To pierce the shadowy foliage, while the zephyr
Comes wafting gently o'er the rippling Trent,
And plays about my wan cheek 'Tis a nook
Most pleasant. Such a one perchance did Gray
Frequent, as with a vagrant muse he wanton'd
Come, I will sit me down and meditate,
For I am wearied with my summer's walk ;
And here I may repose in silent ease ;
And thus, perchance, when life's sad journey's o'er,
My harass'd soul, in this same spot, may find
The haven of its rest — beneath this sod
Perchance may sleep it sweetly, sound as death.

I would not have my corpse cemented down
With brick and stone, defrauding the poor earth
worm
Of its predestined dues ; no, I would lie
Beneath a little hillock, grass o'ergrown,
Swathed down with ozers, just as sleep the cotters.
Yet may not *undistinguish'd* be my grave ;
But there at eve may some congenial soul
Duly resort, and shed a pious tear,
The good man's benison — no more I ask.
And, oh ! (if heavenly beings may look down
From where, with cherubim, inspired they sit,
Upon this little dim-discover'd spot,
The earth,) then will I cast a glance *below*
On him who thus my ashes shall embalm ;
And I will weep too, and will bless the wanderer,
Wishing he may not long be doom'd to pine

In this low-thoughted world of darkling woe,
But that, ere long, he reach his kindred shades.

Yet 'twas a silly thought, as if the body,
Mouldering beneath the surface of the earth,
Could taste the sweets of summer scenery,
And feel the freshness of the balmy breeze !
Yet nature speaks within the human bosom,
And, spite of reason, bids it look beyond
His narrow verge of being, and provide
A decent residence for its clayey shell,
Endear'd to it by time And who would lay
His body in the city burial-place,
To be thrown up again by some rude sexton,
And yield its narrow house another tenant,
Ere the moist flesh had mingled with the dust,
Ere the tenacious hair had left the scalp,
Exposed to insult lend, and wantonness ?
No, I will lay me in the village ground,
There are the dead respected. The poor hind,
Unletter'd as he is, would scorn to invade
The silent resting-place of death. I've seen
The labourer, returning from his toil,
Here stay his steps, and call his children round,
And slowly spell the rudely sculptured rhymes,
And, in his rustic manner, moralize.
I've mark'd with what a silent awe he'd spoken,
With head uncover'd, his respectful manner,
And all the honours which he paid the grave,
And thought on cities, where even cemeteries,
Bestrew'd with all the emblems of mortality,
Are not protected from the drunken insolence
Of wassailers profane, and wanton havoc.
Grant, heaven, that here my pilgrimage may close !
Yet, if this be denied, where'er my bones
May lie—or in the city's crowded bounds,
Or scatter'd wide o'er the huge sweep of waters,
Or left a prey on some deserted shore
To the rapacious cormorant,—yet still,
(For why should sober reason cast away
A thought which soothes the soul ?)—yet still my
spirit

Shall wing its way to these my native regions,
 And hover o'er this spot. Oh, then I'll think
 Of times when I was seated 'neath this yew
 In solemn rumination; and will smile
 With joy that I have got my long'd release.

His friends are of opinion that he never thoroughly recovered from the shock which his constitution then sustained. Many of his poems indicate that he thought himself in danger of consumption; he was not aware that he was generating or fostering in himself another disease little less dreadful, and which threatens intellect as well as life. At this time youth was in his favour, and his hopes, which were now again renewed, produced perhaps a better effect than medicine. Mr. Dashwood obtained for him an introduction to Mr. Simeon, of King's College, and with this he was induced to go to Cambridge. His friend Almond, who had recently entered at Trinity College, had already endeavoured to interest in his behalf some persons who might be able to assist him in the great object of his desire, that of passing through the University, and qualifying himself for holy orders. It is neither to be wondered at, nor censured, that his representations, where he had an opportunity of making them, were for the most part coldly received. They who have been most conversant with youth best understand how little the promises of early genius are to be relied upon: it is among the mortifying truths which we learn from experience; and no common spirit of benevolence is required to overcome the chilling effect of repeated disappointments. He found, however, encouragement from two persons, whose names have since become well known. Mr. Dealtry, then one of the mathematical lecturers at Trinity, was one. This gentleman, whom the love of the abstract sciences had not rendered intolerant of other pursuits more congenial to youthful imaginations, consented to look at Henry's poem of "*Time*," a manuscript of which was in Almond's possession. The perusal interested him

greatly: he entered with his wonted benignity into the concerns of the author; and would gladly have befriended him, if the requisite assistance had not just at that time been secured from other quarters.

The other person in whom Mr. Almond excited an interest for his friend was *Henry Martyn*, who has since sacrificed his life in the missionary service. He was then only a few years older than Henry; equally ardent, equally devout, equally enthusiastic. He heard with emotion of this kindred spirit; read some of his letters, and undertook to enter his name upon the boards of St. John's (of which college he was a fellow), saying that a friend in London, whose name he was not at liberty to communicate, had empowered him to assist any deserving young man with thirty pounds a year during his stay at the University. To ensure success, one of Henry's letters were transmitted to this unknown friend; and Martyn was not a little surprised and grieved to learn, in reply, that a passage in that letter seemed to render it doubtful whether the writer were a Churchman or a Dissenter; and, therefore, occasioned a demur as to the propriety of assisting him. Just at this time Henry arrived at Cambridge, with an introduction to Mr. Simeon. That gentleman, being in correspondence with Martyn's friend in London, expressed displeasure at his arrival, but the first interview removed all objection. Mr. Simeon, from Mr. Dashwood's recommendation, and from what he saw of his principles and talents, promised to procure for him a sizarship at St. John's, and, with the additional aid of a friend, to supply him with 50*l.* annually. His brother Neville promised twenty; and his mother, it was hoped, would be able to allow fifteen or twenty more. With this, it was thought, he could go through college. If this prospect had not been opened to him, he would probably have turned his thoughts towards the orthodox Dissenters.

On his return to Nottingham, the Rev. ——— Robinson of Leicester, and some other friends, advised him to apply to the Elland Society for assist-

ance, conceiving that it would be less oppressive to his feelings to be dependent on a Society, instituted for the express purpose of training up such young men as himself (that is, such in circumstances and opinions) for the ministry, than on the bounty of an individual. In consequence of this advice, he went to Elland at the next meeting of the Society, a stranger there, and without one friend among the members. He was examined, for several hours, by about five-and-twenty clergymen, as to his religious views and sentiments, his theological knowledge, and his classical attainments. In the course of the enquiry it appeared that he had published a volume of poems: their questions now began to be very unpleasantly inquisitive concerning the nature of these poems, and he was assailed by queries from all quarters. It was well for Henry that they did not think of referring to the Monthly Review for authority. My letter to him happened to be in his pocket: he luckily recollected this, and produced it as a testimony in his favour. They did me the honour to say that it was quite sufficient, and pursued this part of their enquiry no farther. Before he left Elland, he was given to understand that they were well satisfied with his theological knowledge; that they thought his classical proficiency prodigious for his age, and that they had placed him on their books. He returned little pleased with his journey. His friends had been mistaken: the bounty of an individual calls forth a sense of kindness as well as of dependence, that of a Society has the virtue of charity, perhaps, but it wants the grace. He now wrote to Mr. Simeon, stating what he had done, and that the beneficence of his unknown friends was no longer necessary: but that gentleman obliged him to decline the assistance of the Society, which he very willingly did.

This being finally arranged, he quitted his employers in October, 1804. How much he had conducted himself to their satisfaction, will appear by this testimony of Mr. Enfield, to his diligence and uniform worth. "I have great pleasure," says this

gentleman, "in paying the tribute to his memory, of expressing the knowledge which was afforded me during the period of his connection with Mr. Coldham and myself, of his diligent application, his ardour for study, and his virtuous and amiable disposition. He very soon discovered an unusual aptness in comprehending the routine of business, and great ability and rapidity in the execution of every thing which was entrusted to him. His diligence and punctual attention were unremitted, and his services became extremely valuable, a considerable time before he left us. He seemed to me to have no relish for the ordinary pleasures and dissipations of young men - his mind was perpetually employed, either in the business of his profession, or in private study. With his fondness for literature we were well acquainted, but had no reason to offer any check to it, for he never permitted the indulgence of his literary pursuits to interfere with the engagements of business. The difficulty of hearing, under which he laboured, was distressing to him in the practice of his profession, and was, I think, an inducement, in co-operation with his other inclinations, for his resolving to relinquish the law. I can, with truth, assert, that his determination was matter of serious regret to my partner and myself."

I may here add, as at the same time showing Henry's aspirations after fame, and the principles by which he had learnt to regulate his ambition, that on the cover of one of his common-place books he had written these mottoes :—

ΑΑΑΑ ΓΑΡ ΕΣΤΙΝ ΜΟΤΣΑ ΚΑΙ ΗΜΙΝ.

EURIP. *Medea*, 1091.

Fame is the spur that the clear spirit doth raise
(That last infirmity of noble minds),
To scorn delight, and live laborious days.

MILTON'S *Lycidas*, 70

Under these lines was placed a reference to the following extract (in another page) from Barrow :—

“The Holy Scripture does not teach us to slight honour; but rather, in its fit order and just measure, to love and prove it. It directs us not to make a regard thereto our chief principle; not to propound it as our main end of action. It charges us, to bear contentedly the want or loss thereof, as of other temporal goods: yea, in some cases, for conscience-sake, or for God’s service (that is, for a good incomparably better), it obliges us willingly to prostitute and sacrifice it, choosing rather to be infamous than impious; in disgrace with man, rather than in disfavour with God. It, in fine, commands us to seek and embrace it only in subordination, and with final reference, to God’s honour.”

Mr. Simeon had advised him to *degrade* for a year, and place himself, during that time, under some scholar. He went accordingly to the Rev. ——— Grainger, of Winteringham, in Lincolnshire; and there, notwithstanding all the entreaties of his friends, pursuing the same unrelenting course of study, a second illness was the consequence. When he was recovering, he was prevailed upon to relax, to ride on horseback, and to drink wine: these latter remedies he could not long afford, and he would not allow himself time for relaxation when he did not feel its immediate necessity. He frequently, at this time, studied fourteen hours a day: the progress which he made in twelve months was indeed astonishing. When he went to Cambridge, he was immediately as much distinguished for his classical knowledge as his genius: but the seeds of death were in him, and the place to which he had so long looked on with hope, served unhappily as a hot-house to ripen them. *

* During his residence in my family, says Mr. Grainger, his conduct was highly becoming, and suitable to a Christian profession. He was mild and inoffensive, modest, unassuming, and affectionate. He attended, with great cheerfulness, a Sunday School which I was endeavouring to establish in the village, and was at considerable pains in the instruction of the children; and I have repeatedly observed, that he was most pleased, and most edified, with such of my sermons and ad-

During his first term, one of the university-scholarships became vacant, and Henry, young as he was in college, and almost self-taught, was advised, by those who were best able to estimate his chance of success, to offer himself as a candidate for it. He passed the whole time in preparing himself for this; reading for college-subjects in bed, in his walks, or, as he says, where, when, and how he could, never having a moment to spare, and often going to his tutor without having read at all. His strength sunk under this, and though he had declared himself a candidate, he was compelled to decline. But this was not the only misfortune. The general college-examination came on: he was utterly unprepared to meet it, and believed that a failure here would have ruined his prospects for ever. He had only about a fortnight to read what other men had been the whole term reading. Once more he exerted himself beyond what his shattered health could bear. The disorder returned, and he went to his tutor, Mr. Catton, with tears in his eyes, and told him that he could not go into the hall to be examined. Mr. Catton, however, thought his success here of so much importance, that he exhorted him, with all possible earnestness, to hold out the six days of the examination. Strong medicines were given him, to enable him to support it; and he was pronounced the first man of his year. But life was the price which he was to pay for such honours as this; and Henry is not the first young man to whom such honours have proved fatal. He said to his most intimate friend, almost the last time he saw him, that, were he to paint a picture of Fame, crowning a distinguished under-graduate, after the Senate-house examination, he would represent her as concealing a death's head under a mask of beauty.

When this was over, he went to London. London was a newscene of excitement, and what his mind

dresses to my people as were most close, plain, and familiar. When we parted, we parted with mutual regret; and by us his name will long be remembered with affection and delight.

required was tranquillity and rest. Before he left college, he had become anxious concerning his expenses, fearing that they exceeded his means. Mr. Catton perceived this, and twice called him to his rooms, to assure him of every necessary support, and every encouragement, and to give him every hope. This kindness relieved his spirits of a heavy weight, and on his return he relaxed a little from his studies, but it was only a little. I found among his papers the day thus planned out:—
 “Rise at half past five. Devotions and walk till seven. Chapel and breakfast till eight. Study and lectures till one. Four and a half clear reading. Walk, &c. and dinner, and Wollaston, and chapel to six. Six to nine, reading—three hours. Nine to ten, devotions. Bed at ten.”

Among his latest writings are these resolutions:—
 “I will never be in bed after six.

I will not drink tea out above once a week, excepting on Sundays, unless there appear some good reason for so doing.

I will never pass a day without reading some portion of the Scriptures.

I will labour diligently in my mathematical studies, because I half suspect myself of a dislike to them.

I will walk two hours a day, upon the average of every week.

Sit mihi gratia addita ad hæc facienda.”

About this time, judging by the handwriting, he wrote down the following admonitory sentences, which, as the paper on which they are written is folded into the shape of a very small book, it is probable he carried about with him as a manual.

“1. Death and judgment are near at hand.

“2. Though thy bodily part be now in health and

case, the dews of death will soon sit upon thy forehead

“3 That which seems so sweet and desirable to thee now, will, if yielded to, become bitterness of soul to thee all thy life after.

“4 When the waters are come over thy soul, and when, in the midst of much bodily anguish, thou distinguishest the dim shores of Eternity before thee, what wouldest thou not give to be lighter by this one sin?

“5 God has long withheld his arm, what if his forbearance be now at an end? Canst thou not contemplate these things with the eyes of death? Art thou not a dying man, dying every day, every hour?

“6 Is it not a fearful thing to shrink from the summons when it comes?—to turn with horror and despair from the future being? Think what strains of joy and tranquillity fall on the ear of the saint who is just swooning into the arms of his Redeemer: what fearful shapes, and dreadful images of a disturbed conscience, surround the sinner's bed, when the last twig which he grasped fails him, and the gulf yawns to receive him!

“7. Oh, my soul, if thou art yet ignorant of the enormity of sin, turn thine eyes to the Man who is bleeding to death on the cross! See how the blood, from his pierced hands, trickles down his arms, and the more copious streams from his feet run on the accursed tree, and stain the grass with purple! Behold his features, though scarcely animated with a few remaining sparks of life, yet how full of pity, love, and tranquillity! A tear is trickling down his cheek, and his lip quivers. — He is praying for his murderers! O, my soul! it is thy Redeemer—it is thy God! And this, too, for *Sin*—for Sin! and wilt thou ever again submit to its yoke?

“8. Remember that the grace of the Holy Spirit of God is ready to save thee from transgression. It is always at hand. thou canst not sin without wilfully rejecting its aid.

“9 And is there real pleasure in sin? Thou knowest there is not. But there is pleasure, pure and exquisite pleasure, in holiness. The Holy Ghost can make the paths of religion and virtue, hard as they seem, and thorny, ways of pleasantness and peace, where, though there be thorns, yet are there also roses; and where all the wounds which we suffer in the flesh, from the hardness of the journey, are so healed by the balm of the Spirit, that they rather give joy than pain.”

The exercise which Henry took was no relaxation: he still continued the habit of studying while he walked; and in this manner, while he was at Cambridge, committed to memory a whole tragedy of Euripides. Twice he distinguished himself in the following year, being again pronounced first at the great college-examination, and also one of the three best theme-writers, between whom the examiners could not decide. The college offered him, at their expense, a private tutor in mathematics during the long vacation; and Mr. Catton, by procuring for him exhibitions to the amount of 66*l.* per annum, enabled him to give up the pecuniary assistance which he had received from Mr. Simeon and other friends. This intention he had expressed in a letter written twelve months before his death. “With regard to my college-expenses (he says), I have the pleasure to inform you, that I shall be obliged, in strict rectitude, to waive the offers of many of my friends. I shall not even need the sum Mr. Simeon mentioned after the first year; and it is not impossible that I may be able to live without any assistance at all. I confess I feel pleasure at the thought of this, not through any vain pride of independence, but because I shall then give a more unbiassed testimony to the truth, than if I were *supposed* to be bound to it by any ties of obligation or gratitude. I shall always feel as

much indebted for intended as for actually afforded assistance ; and though I should never think a sense of thankfulness an oppressive burden, yet I shall be happy to evince it, when, *in the eyes of the world*, the obligation to it has been discharged." Never, perhaps, had any young man, in so short a time, excited such expectations; every university-honour was thought to be within his reach ; he was set down as a medallist, and expected to take a senior wrangler's degree ; but these expectations were poison to him ; they goaded him to fresh exertions when his strength was spent. His situation became truly miserable ; to his brother, and to his mother, he wrote always that he had relaxed in his studies, and that he was better ; always holding out to them his hopes, and his good fortune ; but to the most intimate of his friends (Mr. B Maddock), his letters told a different tale : to him he complained of dreadful palpitations—of nights of sleeplessness and horror, and of spirits depressed to the very depth of wretchedness, so that he went from one acquaintance to another imploring society, even as a starving beggar entreats for food. During the course of this summer, it was expected that the mastership of the free-school at Nottingham would shortly become vacant. A relation of his family was at that time mayor of the town ; he suggested to them what an advantageous situation it would be for Henry, and offered to secure for him the necessary interest. But though the salary and emoluments are estimated at from 400*l*. to 600*l*. per annum, Henry declined the offer ; because, had he accepted it, it would have frustrated his intentions with respect to the ministry. This was certainly no common act of forbearance in one so situated as to fortune, especially as the hope which he had most at heart, was that of being enabled to assist his family, and in some degree requite the care and anxiety of his father and mother, by making them comfortable in their declining years.

The indulgence shown him by his college, in providing him a tutor during the long vacation, was

peculiarly unfortunate. His only chance of life was from relaxation, and home was the only place where he would have relaxed to any purpose. Before this time he had seemed to be gaining strength; it failed as the year advanced: he went once more to London to recruit himself,—the worst place to which he could have gone: the variety of stimulating objects there hurried and agitated him, and when he returned to college, he was so completely ill, that no power of medicine could save him. His mind was worn out; and it was the opinion of his medical attendants, that if he had recovered, his intellect would have been affected. His brother Neville was just at this time to have visited him. On his first seizure, Henry found himself too ill to receive him, and wrote to say so: he added, with that anxious tenderness towards the feelings of a most affectionate family, which always appeared in his letters, that he thought himself recovering; but his disorder increased so rapidly, that this letter was never sent; it was found in his pocket after his decease. One of his friends wrote to acquaint Neville with his danger: he hastened down; but Henry was delirious when he arrived. He knew him only for a few moments; the next day sunk into a state of stupor; and on Sunday, October 19th, 1806, it pleased God to remove him to a better world, and a higher state of existence.

* * * *

THE will which I had manifested to serve Henry, he had accepted as the deed, and had expressed himself upon the subject in terms which it would have humbled me to read, at any other time than when I was performing the last service to his memory. On his decease, Mr. B. Maddock addressed a letter to me, informing me of the event, as one who had professed an interest in his friend's fortunes. I enquired, in my reply, if there was any intention of publishing what he might have left, and in I could be of any assistance in the publication:

this led to a correspondence with his excellent brother, and the whole of his papers were consigned into my hands, with as many of his letters as could be collected.

These papers (exclusive of the correspondence) filled a box of considerable size. Mr. Coleridge was present when I opened them, and was, as well as myself, equally affected and astonished at the proofs of industry which they displayed. Some of them had been written before his hand was formed, probably before he was thirteen. There were papers upon law, upon electricity, upon chemistry, upon the Latin and Greek languages, from their rudiments to the higher branches of critical study, upon history, chronology, divinity, the fathers, &c. Nothing seemed to have escaped him. His poems were numerous: among the earliest was a sonnet addressed to myself, long before the little intercourse which had subsisted between us had taken place. Little did he think, when it was written, on what occasion it would fall into my hands. He had begun three tragedies when very young; one was upon Boudicca, another upon Inez de Castro; the third was a fictitious subject. He had planned also a History of Nottingham. There was a letter upon the famous Nottingham election, which seemed to have been intended either for the newspapers, or for a separate pamphlet. It was written to confute the absurd stories of the Tree of Liberty, and the Goddess of Reason; with the most minute knowledge of the circumstances, and a not improper feeling of indignation against so infamous a calumny: and this came with more weight from him, as his party inclinations seemed to have leaned towards the side which he was opposing. This was his only finished composition in prose. Much of his time, latterly, had been devoted to the study of Greek prosody: he had begun several poems in Greek, and a translation of the *Simson Agonistes*. I have inspected all the existing manuscripts of Chatterton, and they excited less wonder than these.

Had my knowledge of Henry terminated here, I should have hardly believed that my admiration and regret for him could have been increased; but I had yet to learn that his moral qualities, his good sense, and his whole feelings, were as admirable as his industry and genius. All his letters to his family have been communicated to me without reserve, and most of those to his friends. A selection from these is arranged in chronological order in these volumes, which will make him his own biographer, and lay open to the world as pure and as excellent a heart, as it ever pleased the Almighty to warm with life. Much has been suppressed, which, if Henry had been like Chatterton, of another generation, I should willingly have published, and the world would willingly have received, but in doing honour to the dead, I have been scrupulously careful never to forget the living.

It is not possible to conceive a human being more amiable in all the relations of life. He was the confidential friend and adviser of every member of his family: this he instinctively became; and the thorough good sense of his advice is not less remarkable, than the affection with which it is always communicated. To his mother he is as earnest in beseeching her to be careful of her health, as he is in labouring to convince her that his own complaints were abating: his letters to her are always of hopes, of consolation, and of love. To Neville he writes with the most brotherly intimacy, still, however, in that occasional tone of advice which it was his nature to assume, not from any arrogance of superiority, but from earnestness of pure affection. To his younger brother he addresses himself like the tenderest and wisest parent; and to two sisters, then too young for any other communication, he writes to direct their studies, to enquire into their progress, to encourage and to improve them. Such letters as these are not for the public; but they to whom they are addressed will lay them

to their hearts like relics, and will find in them a saving virtue, more than ever relics possessed.

With regard to his poems, the criterion for selection was not so plain. Undoubtedly many have been chosen which he himself would not have published; and some few which, had he lived to have taken that rank among English poets which would assuredly have been within his reach, I also should then have rejected among his posthumous papers. I have, however, to the best of my judgment, selected none which does not either mark the state of his mind, or its progress, or discover evident proofs of what he would have been, if it had not been the will of Heaven to remove him so soon. The reader, who feels any admiration for Henry, will take some interest in all these Remains, because they are his: he who shall feel none must have a blind heart, and therefore a blind understanding. Such poems are to be considered as making up his history. But the greater number are of such beauty, that Chatterton is the only youthful poet whom he does not leave far behind him.

While he was under Mr. Grainger he wrote very little; and when he went to Cambridge he was advised to stifle his poetical fire, for severer and more important studies; to lay a billet on the embers until he had taken his degree, and then he might fan it into a flame again. This advice he followed so scrupulously, that a few fragments, written chiefly upon the back of his mathematical papers, are all which he produced at the University. The greater part, therefore, of these poems, indeed nearly the whole of them, were written before he was nineteen. Wise as the advice may have been which had been given him, it is now to be regretted that he adhered to it, his latter fragments bearing all those marks of improvement which were to be expected from a mind so rapidly and continually progressive. Frequently he expresses a fear that early death would rob him of his fame; yet, short as his life was, it has been long enough for him to

leave works worthy of remembrance. The very circumstance of his early death gives a new interest to his memory, and thereby new force to his example. Just at that age when the painter would have wished to fix his likeness, and the lover of poetry would delight to contemplate him,—in the fair morning of his virtues, the full spring-blossom of his hopes,—just at that age hath death set the seal of eternity upon him, and the beautiful hath been made permanent. To the young poets who come after him, Henry will be what Chatterton was to him; and they will find in him an example of hopes with regard to worldly fortune, as humble, and as exalted in all better things, as are enjoined equally by wisdom and religion, by the experience of man, and the word of God: and this example will be as encouraging as it is excellent. It has been too much the custom to complain that genius is neglected, and to blame the public when the public is not in fault. They who are thus lamented as the victims of genius have been, in almost every instance, the victims of their own vices: while genius has been made, like charity, to cover a multitude of sins, and to excuse that which in reality it aggravates. In this age, and in this country, whoever deserves encouragement is, sooner or later, sure to receive it. Of this Henry's history is an honourable proof. The particular patronage which he accepted was given as much to his piety and religious opinions as to his genius: but assistance was offered him from other quarters. Mr. P. Thomson (of Boston, Lincolnshire), merely upon perusing his little volume, wrote to know how he could serve him; and there were many friends of literature who were ready to have afforded him any support which he needed, if he had not been thus provided. In the University he received every encouragement which he merited; and from Mr. Simeon, and his tutor, Mr. Catton, the most fatherly kindness.

“I can venture,” says a lady of Cambridge, in a letter, to his brother,—“I can venture to say, with

certainly, there was no member of the University, however high his rank or talents, who would not have been happy to have availed themselves of the opportunity of being acquainted with Mr. Henry Kirke White. I mention this to introduce a wish which has been expressed to me so often by the senior members of the University, that I dare not decline the task they have imposed upon me; it is their hope that Mr. Southey will do as much justice to Mr. Henry White's limited wishes, to his unassuming pretensions, and to his rational and fervent piety, as to his various acquirements, his polished taste, his poetical fancy, his undeviating principles, and the excellence of his moral character. and that he will suffer it to be understood, that these inestimable qualities had not been unobserved, nor would they have remained unacknowledged. It was the general observation, that he possessed genius without its eccentricities." Of fervent piety, indeed, his letters, his prayers, and his hymns, will afford ample and interesting proofs. It was in him a living and quickening principle of goodness, which sanctified all his hopes and all his affections; which made him keep watch over his own heart, and enabled him to correct the few symptoms, which it ever displayed, of human imperfection.

His temper had been irritable in his younger days; but this he had long since effectually overcome; the marks of youthful confidence, which appear in his earliest letters, had also disappeared; and it was impossible for any man to be more tenderly patient of the faults of others, more uniformly meek, or more unaffectedly humble. He seldom discovered any sportiveness of imagination, though he would very ably and pleasantly rally any one of his friends for any little peculiarity; his conversation was always sober and to the purpose. That which is most remarkable in him, is his uniform *good sense*, a faculty perhaps less common than genius. There never existed a more dutiful son, a more affectionate brother, a warmer friend, nor a devouter Christian. Of his powers of mind it is

superfluous to speak; they were acknowledged wherever they were known. It would be idle, too, to say what hopes were entertained of him, and what he might have accomplished in literature. These volumes contain what he has left, immature buds and blossoms shaken from the tree, and green fruit; yet will they evince what the harvest would have been, and secure for him that remembrance upon earth for which he toiled.

"Thou soul of God's best earthly mould,
Thou happy soul! and can it be
That these —————
Are all that must remain of thee!"

WORDSWORTH.

Kewick, 1807.

PREFACE

TO A SUPPLEMENTARY VOLUME,

THE CONTENTS OF WHICH ARE INCLUDED IN THE
PRESENT EDITION.

Few books have issued from the press, during the last fifteen years, which have excited such general and unabating interest as the Remains of Henry Kirke White. I hoped, and indeed expected, this with some confidence; in reliance upon something better than the taste or judgment of that many headed idol, the Public. I trusted, that the genius of the writer, and the purity and beauty of his character, would call forth admiration in young and generous hearts; while a large portion of the community would duly appreciate his good sense, his prudence, and his piety. And in this I was not deceived: youth and age, the learned and the unlearned, the proud intellect and the humble heart, have derived from these melancholy relics a pleasure, equal perhaps in degree, though different in kind.

In consequence of this general acceptance, the relatives of the Author were often advised and solicited to publish a farther selection, and applications to the same effect were sometimes addressed to me. An extract from one letter upon the subject may not improperly be inserted here, for its singularity and frank good nature. After declaring, that he did not remember ever to have read a work which had more pleased, edified, and affected him, the writer says, "To be sure, you and I should read the book very differently. I am such a Goth, that I have no taste for any poetry beyond a Tabernacle Hymn: therefore, when I read the first

volume, I skipped the verses, or, at most, hastily ran my eye over them. The part which has so much struck me is his religion. Indeed, dear Sir, you have done this part great justice. A thought, however, has struck me, which I trust your candour will pardon me for stating to you. As you had a trunk full of papers of his writing to select from, I fear there may be many on the subject of religion which you may have omitted, (not out of bigotry, for the *Life* is so fairly and honourably written, that I perfectly acquit you of that,) but from thinking them perhaps enthusiastic, or unworthy of his great abilities: when those very papers might be a means of comfort and edification to some pious minds. Even if this did not weigh with you, out of so large a number you had to select a few, consequently many must have been unavoidably rejected. If there are many more of the same devotional cast, and it was judged expedient to print them, I would gladly subscribe towards it."

The wishes, thus privately expressed, for a farther selection, were seconded by the publishers; but so little had any such intention been originally entertained, that the poems, and some prose compositions, which from time to time were recovered, and thought worthy of preservation, were inserted in the former volumes, as the opportunity of a new edition occurred. At length, however, when some letters of more than common interest were put into Mr. Neville White's possession, the propriety of bearing a future publication in mind was perceived; and, from that time, such letters and compositions as were discovered, were laid aside with this view. From these, and from the gleanings of the original collection, the present volume has been formed.

Few of the prose compositions stand in need of any apology. I have elsewhere observed, that the premature good sense of Henry was even more extraordinary than his genius; and these Remains contain abundant proofs, that if Providence had thought good to lengthen his days, he would, in all likelihood, have been one of the most judicious of English authors. With regard to the poetry, having

in the first instance exercised my own judgment, I did not now think myself justified in rejecting what others recommended for insertion. The poems had been seen by many friends of the family, and as in this case no possible injury could be done to the reputation of the dead, I willingly deferred to their wishes and feelings. That which has pleased one person may be expected to please others, and the productions of an immature mind will be read by other minds in the same stage, with which they will be in unison. The lover of poetry, as well as the artist and the antiquary, may be allowed to have his relics. Even in the relic-worship of the Romish superstition, what we condemn, is not the natural and becoming sentiment, but the abuse which has been made of it, and the follies and villanies which have been committed in consequence.

It is a mournful thing to consider how much the world has lost in a mind so highly gifted, and regulated by such principles. The country is overflowing with talents: and mere talents, directed as they are more frequently to evil than to good, are to be regretted when they are cut off, only in compassion for those who must answer for their misapplication: but one who had chosen his part well, and would have stood forward, armed at all points, among the conservative spirits of the age, can ill be spared. Yet he has not lived in vain, either for himself or others. Perhaps no after-works which he might have left on earth, however elaborate, could have been so influential as his youthful example. For many are the young and ardent minds who have received, and many, many more are they who will receive from him a right bias in the beginning of their course. Many are the youthful poets who will recognize their own feelings concerning *Henry Kirke White*, in this sweet Sonnet.

Though as the dew of morning, short thy date,
Tho' Sorrow look'd on thee, and said—"Be mine!"
Yet with a holy ardour, bard divine,
I burn—I burn to share thy glorious fate,

Above whate'er of honours or estate,
 This transient world can give ! I would resign,
 With rapture, Fortune's choicest gifts for thine, —
 More truly noble, more sublimely great !
 For thou hast gain'd the prize of well-tried worth,
 That prize which from thee never can be riven ;
 Thine, Henry, is a deathless name on earth,
 Thine amaranthine wreaths, new pluck'd in hea-
 ven !

By what aspiring child of mortal birth
 Could more be ask'd, to whom might more be given ?
 CHAUNCEY HARE TOWNSEND.

A tablet to Henry's memory, with ^{as a means} by Chantry, has been placed in All-Saints' ^{and} minds, Cambridge, at the expense of a young American gentleman, Mr. Francis Boot, of Boston. During his travels in this country, he visited the grave of one whom he had learnt to love and regret in America ; and finding no other memorial of him than the initials of his name upon the plain stone which covers his perishable remains, ordered this monument to be erected. It bears an inscription * by Professor Smyth, who, while Henry was living, treated him with characteristic kindness, and has consigned to posterity this durable expression of his friendship.

Keswick, 1822.

* See p. 186.

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collected course of the virtuous and pious man, with the turbulent irregularity and violence of him who neglects his soul for the allurements of vice, and judge for yourselves of the policy of the conduct of each, even in this world. Whose pleasures are the most exquisite? Whose delights the most lasting? Whose state is the most enviable? His who barter his hopes of eternal welfare for a few fleeting moments of brutal gratification, or his who, while he looks on a future state alone in his view, finds happiness in the conscientious performance of his duties, and the scrupulous fulfilment of the end of his sojourn here? Believe me, my friends, there is no comparison between them. The joys of the insatuated mortal who sacrifices his soul to his sensualities, are mixed with bitterness and anguish. The voice of conscience rises distinctly to his ear, amid the shouts of intemperance and the sallies of obstreperous mirth. In the hour of rejoicing, she whispers her appalling monitions to him; and his heart sinks within him, and the smile of triumphant villany is converted into the ghastly grin of horror and hopelessness. But, oh! in the languid intervals of dissipation—in the dead hour of the night, when all is solitude and silence, when the soul is driven to commune with itself, and the voice of remorse, whose whispers were before half drowned in the noise of riot, rises dreadfully distinct—what!—what are his emotions! Who can paint his agonies, his execrations, his despair! Let that man lose again, in the vortex of fashion, and folly, and vice, the remembrance of his horrors, let him smile, let him laugh and be merry; believe me, my dear readers, he is *not* happy, he is *not* careless, he is *not* the jovial being he appears to be. His heart is heavy within him, he cannot stifle the reflections which assail him in the very moment of enjoyment: but strip the painted veil from his bosom, lay aside the trappings of folly, and that man is *miserable*; and not only so, but he has purchased that misery at the expense of the eternal torment.

Let us oppose to this awful picture the life of the

a due sense of the importance of divine concerns in age, except by the bitter and hazardous roads of repentance and remorse. There is not a more awful spectacle in nature, than the death-bed of a *late* repentance. The groans of agony which attend the separation of the soul from the body, heightened by the heart-piercing exclamation of mental distress; the dreadful ebullitions of horror and remorse, intermingled with the half fearful, but fervent deprecations of the divine wrath, and prayers for the divine mercy, joined to the pathetic imploring to the friends who stand weeping around the bed of the sinner, to pray for him, and to take warning from his awful end, contribute to render this scene such an impressive and terrible memento of the state of those who have neglected their souls, as must bring to a due sense of his duty the most hardened of infidels.

It is to ensure you, my young friends, as far as precept can ensure you, from horrors like these in your last moments, that I write this little book, in the hopes that, through the blessing of the Divine Being, it may be useful in inducing you to reflect on the importance of early piety, and lead you into the cheerful performance of your duties to God, and to your own souls. In the pursuit of this plan, I shall, first, consider the bliss which results from a pious disposition, and the horrors of a wicked one; secondly, the necessity of an early attention to the concerns of the soul towards the establishment of permanent religion, and its consequent happiness; and, thirdly, I shall point out and contrast the last moments of those who have acted in conformity, or in contradiction, to the rules here laid down.

The contrast between the lives of the good and the wicked man affords such convincing arguments in support of the excellence of religion, that even those infidels who have dared to assert their disbelief of the doctrine of Revelation have confessed that, in a political point of view, if in no other, it ought to be maintained. Compare the peaceful and

LETTERS.

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

Nottingham, September, 1793.

DEAR BROTHER,

IN consequence of your repeated solicitations, I now sit down to write to you, although I never received an answer to the last letter which I wrote, nearly six months ago; but, as I never heard you mention it in any of my mother's letters, I am induced to think it has miscarried, or been mislaid in your office.

It is now nearly four months since I entered into Mr. Coldham's office; and it is with pleasure I can assure you, that I never yet found any thing disagreeable, but, on the contrary, every thing I do seems a pleasure to me, and for a very obvious reason,—it is a business which I like—a business which I chose before all others; and I have two good-tempered, easy masters, but who will, nevertheless, see that their business is done in a neat and proper manner. The study of the law is well known to be a dry difficult task, and requires a comprehensive, good understanding; and I hope you will allow me (without charging me with egotism) to have a tolerable one; and I trust, with perseverance, and a very large law-library to refer to, I shall be able to accomplish the study of so much of the laws of England, and our system of jurisprudence, in less than five years, as to enable me to be a country attorney; and then, as I shall have two more years to serve, I hope I shall attain so much knowledge in all parts of the law, as to enable me, with a little study at the inns of court, to hold an argument on

the nice points in the law with the best attorney in the kingdom. A man that understands the law is sure to have business; and in case I have no thoughts, in case, that is, that I do not aspire to hold the honourable place of a barrister, I shall feel sure of gaining a genteel livelihood at the business to which I am article'd.

I attend at the office at eight in the morning, and leave at eight in the evening; then attend my Latin until nine, which, you may be sure, is pretty close confinement.

Mr. Coldham is clerk to the commercial commissioners, which has occasioned us a deal of extraordinary work. I worked all Sunday, and until twelve o'clock on Saturday night, when they were hurried to give in the certificates to the bank. We had also a very troublesome cause last assizes, *The Corporation versus Gee*, which we (the attorneys for the corporation) lost. It was really a very fatiguing day (I mean the day on which it was tried) I never got any thing to eat, from five in the afternoon, the preceding day, until twelve the next night, when the trial ended.

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

Nottingham, 26th June, 1800

DEAR BROTHER,

* * * * *

My mother has allowed me a good deal lately for books, and I have a large *assortment* (a retailer's phrase). But I hope you do not suppose they consist of novels; — no — I have made a firm resolution never to spend above one hour at this amusement. Though I have been obliged to enter into this resolution in consequence of a vitiated taste acquired by reading romances, I do not intend to banish them entirely from my desk. After long and fa-

linguistic researches in Blackstone or Coke, when the mind becomes weak, through intense application, Tom Jones, or Robinson Crusoe, will afford a pleasing and necessary relaxation

A-propos — now we are speaking of Robinson Crusoe, I shall observe, that it is allowed to be the best novel for youth in the English language. De Foe, the author, was a singular character; but as I make no doubt you have read his life, I will not trouble you with any further remarks

The books which I now read with attention, are Blackstone, Knox's Essays, Plutarch, Chesterfield's Letters, four large volumes, Virgil, Homer, and Cicero, and several others. Blackstone and Knox, Virgil and Cicero, I have got, the others I read out of Mr Coldham's library. I have finished Rollin's Ancient History, Blair's Lectures, Smith's Wealth of Nations, Hume's England, and British Nepos, lately. When I have read Knox I will send it you, and recommend it to your attentive perusal; it is a most *excellent* work. I also read now the British Classics, the common edition of which I now take in; it comes every fortnight; I dare say you have seen it, it is Cooke's edition. I would recommend you also to read these, I will send them to you. I have got the Citizen of the World, Idler, Goldsmith's Essays, and part of the Rambler. I will send you soon the fourth number of the Monthly Preceptor. I am noticed as worthy of commendation, and as affording an encouraging prospect of future excellence — You will laugh. I have also turned poet, and have translated an ode of Horace into English *verse*, also for the Monthly Preceptor, but unfortunately, when I sent it, I forgot the title, so it won't be noticed.

I do not forsake the flowery paths of poesy, for that is my chief delight; I read the best poets. Mr. Coldham has got Johnson's complete set, with their lives; these of course I read

With a little drudgery, I read Italian — Have got some good Italian works, as Pastor Fido, &c. &c. I taught myself, and have got a grammar

I must now beg leave to return you my sincere thanks for your kind present. I like "La Bruyere the Less" very much; I have read the original La Bruyere: I think him like Rochefoucault. Madame de Genlis is a very able woman.

* * * * *

But I must now attempt to excuse my neglect in not writing to you. First, I have been very busy with these essays and poems for the Monthly Preceptor. Second, I was rather angry at your last letter—I can bear any thing but a sneer, and it was one continued grin from beginning to end, as were all the notices you made of me in my mother's letters, and I could not, nor can I now, brook it. I could say much more, but it is very late, and must beg leave to wish you good night.

I am, dear brother,

Your affectionate friend,

H. K. WHITE

P. S. You may expect a regular correspondence from me in future, but no sneers; and shall be very obliged by a long letter.

* * * * *

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

Nottingham, 25th June, 1800.

DEAR NEVILLE,

* * * * *

You are inclined to flatter me when you compare my application with yours; in truth, I am not half so assiduous as you, and I am conscious I waste a deal of time unwittingly. But, in reading, I am upon the continual search for improvement: I thirst after knowledge, and though my disposition is naturally idle, I conquer it when reading an useful book. The plan which I pursued, in order to subdue my disinclination to dry books, was this, to begin *attentively* to peruse it, and continue thus

one hour every day; the book insensibly, by this means, becomes pleasing to you; and even when reading Blackstone's Commentaries, which are very dry, I lay down the book with regret.

With regard to the Monthly Preceptor, I certainly shall be agreeable to your taking it in, as my only objection was the extreme impatience which I feel to see whether my essays have been successful; but this may be obviated by your speedy perusal, and not neglecting to forward it. But you must have the goodness not to begin till August, as my bookseller cannot stop it this month.

* * * * *

I had a ticket given me to the boxes, on Monday night, for the benefit of Campbell, from Drury Lane, and there was such a riot as never was experienced here before. He is a democrat, and the soldiers planned a riot in conjunction with the *mob*. We heard the shouting of the rabble in the street before the *play* was over. the moment the curtain dropt, an officer went into the front box, and gave the word of command; immediately about sixty troopers started up, and six trumpeters in the pit played "God save the king." The noise was astonishing. The officers in the boxes then drew their swords; and at another signal the privates in the pit drew their bludgeons which they had hitherto concealed, and attacked all indiscriminately, that had not an uniform: the officers did the same with their swords, and the house was one continued scene of confusion: one pistol was fired, and the ladies were fainting in the lobby. The outer doors were shut to keep out the mob, and the people jumped on the stage as a last resource. One of these noble officers, seeing one man stand in the pit with his hat on, jumped over the division, and cut him with his sword, which the man instantly wrenched from him, and broke, whilst the officer sneaked back in disgrace. They then formed a troop, and having emptied the play-house, they scoured the streets with their swords, and returned home victorious. The players are, in consequence, dismissed;

and we have informations in our office against the officers.

* * * * *

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

Nottingham, Michaelmas-day, 1800.

DEAR NEVILLE,

I CANNOT divine what, in an epistolary correspondence, can have such charms (with people who write only common-place occurrences) as to detach a man from his usual affairs, and make him waste time and paper on what cannot be of the least real benefit to his correspondent. Amongst relatives certainly there is always an incitement; we always feel an anxiety for their welfare. But I have no *friend* so dear to me, as to cause me to take the trouble of reading his letters, if they only contained an account of his health, and the mere nothings of the day, indeed, such an one would be unworthy of friendship. What then is requisite to make one's correspondence valuable? I answer, *sound sense*. Nothing more is requisite; as to the style, one may very readily excuse its faults if repaid by the sentiments. You have better natural abilities than many youth, but it is with regret I see that you will not give yourself the trouble of writing a good letter. There is hardly any species of composition (in my opinion) easier than the epistolary; but, my friend, you never found any art, however trivial, that did not require some application at first. For, if an artist, instead of endeavouring to surmount the difficulties which presented themselves, were to rest contented with mediocrity, how could he possibly ever arrive at excellence? Thus 'tis with you; instead of that indefatigable perseverance which, in other cases, is a leading trait in your character, I hear you say, "Ah! my poor brains were never formed for letter-writing—I shall never write a

good letter," or some such phrases; and thus by despairing of ever arriving at excellence, you render yourself hardly tolerable. You may, perhaps, think this art beneath your notice, or unworthy of your pains; if so, you are assuredly mistaken, for there is hardly any thing which would contribute more to the advancement of a young man, or which is more engaging.

You read, I believe, a good deal, nothing could be more acceptable to me, or more improving to you, than making a part of your letters to consist of your sentiments, and opinion of the books you peruse; you have no idea how beneficial this would be to yourself; and that you are able to do it I am certain. One of the greatest impediments to good writing, is the thinking too much before you note down. This, I think, you are not entirely free from. I hope, that by always writing the first idea that presents itself, you will soon conquer it; my letters are always the rough first draft, of course there are many alterations; these you will excuse.

I have written most of my letters to you in so negligent a manner, that if you would have the goodness to return all you have preserved, *sealed*, I will peruse them, and all sentences worth preserving I will extract, and return.

You observe, in your last, that your letters are read with contempt — Do you speak as you think?

You had better write again to Mr. ———. Between friends, the common forms of the world, in writing letter for letter, need not be observed; but never write three without receiving one in return, because in that case they must be thought unworthy of answer.

We have been so busy lately, I could not answer yours sooner. — Once a month suppose we write to each other. If you ever find that my correspondence is not worth the trouble of carrying on, inform me of it, and it shall cease.

* * * * *

P. S. If any expression in this be too harsh, excuse it. — I am not in an ill humour, recollect.

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

Nottingham, 11th April, 1801.

DEAR NEVILLE,

ON opening yours, I was highly pleased to find two and a half sheets of paper, and nothing could exceed my joy at so apparently long a letter; but, upon finding it consisted of sides filled after the rate of five words in a line, and nine lines in a page, I could not conceal my chagrin; and I am sure I may very modestly say, that one of my ordinary pages contains three of yours: if you knew half the pleasure I feel in your correspondence, I am confident you would lengthen your letters. You tantalize me with the hopes of a prolific harvest, and I find, alas! a thin crop, whose goodness only makes me lament its scantiness.

* * * * *

I had almost forgot to tell you, that I have obtained the first prize (of a pair of Adams's twelve-inch globes, value three guineas) in the first class of the Monthly Preceptor. The subject was an imaginary tour from London to Edinburgh. It is printed consequently, and shall send it to you the very first opportunity. The proposals stated, that the essay was not to exceed three pages when printed—mine takes seven; therefore I am astonished they gave me the first prize. There was an extraordinary number of candidates; and they said they never had a greater number of excellent ones, and they wished they could have given thirty prizes. You will find it (in a letter) addressed to N——, meaning yourself.

* * * * *

Warton is a poet from whom I have derived the most exquisite pleasure and gratification. He abounds in sublimity and loftiness of thought, as well as expression. His "Pleasures of Melancholy" is truly a sublime poem. The following passage I particularly admire:

" Nor undelightful in the solemn noon
 Of night, where, hush'd wakeful from my couch
 I start, lo, all is motionless around !
 Roars not the rushing wind, the sons of men,
 And every beast in mute oblivion lie
 All nature's hush'd in silence, and in sleep
 Oh, then, how fearful is it to reflect,
 That thro' the still globe's awful solitude
 No being wakes but me."

How affecting are the latter lines ! it is impossible to withstand the emotions which rise on its perusal, and I envy not that man his insensibility who can read them with apathy. Many of the pieces of the Bible are written in this sublime manner one psalm, I think the 18th, is a perfect masterpiece, and has been imitated by many poets. Compare these, or the above quoted from Warton, with the finest piece in Pope, and then judge of the rank which he holds as a poet. Another instance of the sublime in poetry I will give you, from Akenside's admirable "Pleasures of Imagination," where, speaking of the soul, he says, she

" Rides on the volley'd lightning thro' the heav'ns,
 And yok'd with whirlwinds, and the northern blast,
 Sweeps the long tract of day "

Many of these instances of sublimity will occur to you in Thomson.

James begs leave to present you with Bloomfield's Farmer's Boy. Bloomfield has no grandeur or height, he is a pastoral poet, and the simply sweet is what you are to expect from him ; nevertheless, his descriptions are sometimes little inferior to Thomson.

* * * * *

How pleased should I be, Neville, to have you with us at Nottingham ! Our fire-side would be delightful.—I should profit by your sentiments and experience, and you possibly might gain a little from my small bookish knowledge. But I am afraid that time will never come, your time of apprenticeship is nearly expired, and, in all appearance, the small residue that yet remains will be passed in hated London. When you are emancipated, you will have to mix in the bustle of the world, in all probability, also, far from home ; so that when we have just learnt how happy we might mutually make our-

selves, we find scarcely a shadow of a probability of ever having the opportunity. Well, well, it is in vain to resist the immutable decrees of fate.

* * * *

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

Nottingham, April 1801.

DEAR NEVILLE,

As I know you will participate with me in the pleasure I receive from literary distinctions, I hasten to inform you, that my poetical Essay on Gratitude is printed in this month's Preceptor; that my remarks on Warton are promised insertion in the next month's Mirror; and that my Essay on Truth is printed in the present (April) Monthly Visitor. The Preceptor I shall not be able to send you until the end of this month. The Visitor you will herewith receive. The next month's Mirror I shall consequently buy. I wish it were not quite so expensive, as I think it a very good work. Benjamin Thomson, Capel Loft, Esq., Robert Bloomfield, Thomas Dermody, Mr. Gilchrist, under the signature of Octavius, Mrs. Blore, a noted female writer, under the signature Q Z., are correspondents; and the editors are not only men of genius and taste, but of the greatest respectability. As I shall now be a regular contributor to this work, and as I think it contains much good matter, I have half an inclination to take it in, more especially as you have got the prior volumes: but in the present state of my finances it will not be prudent, unless you accede to a proposal, which, I think, will be gratifying to yourself. — It is, to take it in conjunction with me; by which means we shall both have the same enjoyment of it, with half the expense. It is of little consequence who takes them, only he must be expeditious in reading them. If you have any the least objection to this scheme, do not suppress it through any regard to punctilio. I have only proposed it,

and it is not *very* material whether you concur or not; only exercise your own discretion.

You say, (speaking of a passage concerning you in my last,) "this is compliment sufficient, the rest must be flattery."—Do you seriously, Neville, think me capable of flattery?

As you well know I am a carping, critical little dog, you will not be surprised at my observing that there is one figure in your last that savours rather of the ludicrous, when you talk of a "*butterfly hopping from book to book.*"

As to the something that I am to find out, that is a perpetual bar to your progress in knowledge, &c. I am inclined to think, Doctor, it is merely *conceit*. You fancy that you cannot write a letter—you dread its idea; you conceive that a work of four volumes would require the labours of a life to read through; you persuade yourself that you cannot retain what you read, and in despair do not attempt to conquer these visionary impediments. Confidence, Neville, in one's own abilities, is a sure forerunner (in similar circumstances with the present) of success. As an illustration of this, I beg leave to adduce the example of Pope, who had so high a sense, in his youth, or rather *in his infancy*, of his own capacity, that there was nothing of which, when once set about, he did not think himself capable; and, as Dr. Johnson has observed, the natural consequence of this minute perception of his own powers, was his arriving at as high a pitch of perfection as it was possible for a man with his few natural endowments to attain.

* * * * *

When you wish to read Johnson's *Lives of the Poets*, send for them: I have lately purchased them. I have now a large library. My mother allows me ten pounds per annum for clothes. I always dress in a respectable and even in a genteel manner, yet I can make much less than this sum suffice. My father generally gives me one coat in a year, and I make two serve. I then receive one guinea per annum for keeping my mother's books; one guinea

per annum pocket-money; and by other means I gain, perhaps, two guineas more per annum: so that I have been able to buy pretty many; and when you come home, you will find me in my study surrounded with books and papers. I am a perfect garreteer: great part of my library, however, consists of professional books. Have you read Burke on the Sublime? Knox's Winter Evening? Can lend them to you, if you have not.

Really, Neville, were you fully sensible how much my time is occupied, principally about my profession, as a primary concern, and in the hours necessarily set apart to relaxation, or polite literature, to which, as a hobby-horse, I am very desirous of paying some attention, you would not be angry at my delay in writing, or my short letters. It is always with joy that I devote a leisure hour to you, as it affords you gratification; and, rest assured, that I always participate in your pleasure, and poignantly feel every adverse incident which causes you pain.

Permit me, however, again to observe, that one of my sheets is equal to two of yours; and I cannot but consider this is a kind of fallacious deception, for you always think that your letters contain so much more than mine because they occupy more room. If you were to count the words, the difference would not be so great. You must also take in account the unsealed communications to periodical works, which I now reckon a part of my letter; and therefore you must excuse my concluding on the first sheet, by assuring you that I still remain

Your friend and brother,

H. K. WHITE.

P. S. A postscript is a natural appendage to a letter. — I only have to say, that positively you shall receive a six or eight sheet letter, and that written legibly, ere long.

TO MR. BOOTH.

Nottingham, August 12th, 1801.

DEAR SIR,

I MUST beg leave to apologize for not having returned my sincere acknowledgments to yourself and Mrs Booth, for your very acceptable presents, at an earlier period. I now, however, acquit myself of the duty; and assure you, that from both of the works I have received much gratification and edification, but more particularly from one on the Trinity *, a production which displays much erudition, and a very laudable zeal for the true interests of religion. Religious polemics, indeed, have seldom formed a part of my studies, though whenever I happened accidentally to turn my thoughts to the subject of the Protestant doctrine of the Godhead, and compared it with Arian and Socinian, many doubts interfered, and I even began to think that the more nicely the subject was investigated, the more perplexed it would appear, and was on the point of forming a resolution to go to heaven in my own way, without meddling or involving myself in the inextricable labyrinth of controversial dispute, when I received and perused this excellent treatise, which finally cleared up the mists which my ignorance had conjured around me, and clearly pointed out the real truth. The intention of the author precluded the possibility of his employing the ornaments and graces of composition in his work; for as it was meant for all ranks, it must be suited to all capacities; but the arguments are drawn up and arranged in so forcible and perspicuous a manner, and are written so plainly, yet pleasingly, that I was absolutely charmed with them.

The "Evangelical Clergyman" is a very smart piece; the author possesses a considerable portion of sarcastic spirit, and no little acrimony, perhaps not consistent with the Christian meekness which he

* Jones on the Trinity.

wishes to inculcate. I consider, however, that London would not have many *places*, or attractions, if despoiled of all the monuments to which, in one part of his pamphlet, he objects. In theory, the destruction of these various recreations is very fine: but in practice, I am afraid he would find it quite different. * * * The other parts of this piece are very just, and such as every person must subscribe to. Clergymen, in general, are not what they ought to be: and I think Mr. ——— has pointed out their duties very accurately. But I am afraid I shall be deemed impertinent and tiresome in troubling you with ill-timed and obtrusive opinions, and beg leave, therefore, to conclude, with respects to yourself and Mrs. Booth, by assuring you that I am, according to custom from time immemorial, and in due form,

Dear Sir,
Your obliged humble Servant,
HENRY KIRKE WHITE.

TO MR. HARRIS.

Nottingham, ———, 1802.

DEAR SIR,

I MUST stand self-accused of negligence for not having written to you sooner, on the subject of Parkhurst's Greek Lexicon, which you were so good as to inform me you could obtain for 2l. 2s.; but at the time you left the note at our house, I was at Chesterfield, from whence I did not return until the ensuing week, and my mother having forgotten to mention the circumstance of your note being written in the Monthly Mirror, I never knew of it, until a considerable time afterwards, when I casually cast my eye upon it, as I was preparing the numbers to be *bound*. I have also expected for some time, to hear of your return to Nottingham, as, from what you said previous to your departure,

I concluded you were not going to bid us a final farewell. I now suppose you have obtained a situation elsewhere, but in what part of this great world I am totally at a loss to imagine. For any thing I know to the contrary, you may be shivering in Nova Zembla, or sweltering under the line; quaffing the milk of the cocoa-nut under the broad bananas of the Indies, or breathing the invigorating air of liberty in the half-cultivated wilds of North America. I have some sort of a prepossession, however, that you are not quite so far removed from the fogs of our British atmosphere, but rather, think you are concealed amid its vapours. I am the more inclined to favour this latter supposition, though not so *romantic* as the former by half,—because Mr. S * *, who will forward this letter, has signified the same to me.

Since your departure, I have made some progress in the Greek, but was stopt for the want of a Lexicon. I lately purchased a second-hand Schrevelius, (Greek and Latin,) which has pretty well answered my purpose; but Parkhurst is still desirable, and if you will have the goodness to obtain me the one you mentioned, I shall be obliged to you, and will remit you the price, wherever you may happen to be, and in the manner you may judge the most convenient.

I can assure you, I begin to feel your loss severely, and, as the summer approaches, shall do it the more, for I consider the hours I passed with you at the Trent Bridge, as the most delightfully tranquil in my life; though dashed, at intervals, by the recollection that I had to brave all the horrors of the night, the walking spectres and the lurking assassins, in my way home over the meadows. Seriously, now I wonder, how you could leave so many attractions, to a mind like your's, when you possessed an easy competency, in pursuit of precarious wealth. I can give you a line of Horace to this effect, but my Latinity is very stale—

Quod satis est, cui contingit, nihil amplius optet.

I hope you will not think me impertinent in thus

obtruding my gaping wonderments on your notice, nor think me a believer in the truth of that impertinent Greek Proverb “*πολλοι μαθηται κειττονεις διδασκαλων*” Had it been *wiser*, instead of “*better*,” this would have been more applicable, but you see how ambitious I am of forcing my learning on your notice. Pray do have the goodness to inform me whether in writing in the Greek character, there is not some mode of joining the letters, without making use of those plaguey contractions; in my present way, as above, I find it wretchedly tiresome.

You see, I begin to talk to you as if I were a regular correspondent; in fact, it is in that very light I wish to consider myself, and it depends on you to determine whether I shall enjoy that pleasure. I confess all the advantage will be on my side, without any thing adequate to compensate for it on yours. But, — hang these “buts,” how they bother one. *But*, the fact is, I have nothing interesting on the subject, though I have been racking my brains several minutes to discover something.

* * * * *

TO MR. CHARLESWORTH.

Nottingham, ——— 1802.

DEAR SIR,

I AM sure you will excuse me for not having immediately answered your letter, when I relate the cause. — I was preparing, at that moment when I received yours, a volume of poems for the press, which I shall shortly see published. I finished and sent them off for London last night; and I now hasten to acknowledge your letter.

I am very happy that any poem of mine should meet with *your* approbation. I prefer the cool and dispassionate praise of the discriminate *few*, to the boisterous applause of the *crowd*.

Our professions neither of them leave much leisure for the study of polite literature; I myself have, however, *coined* time, if you will allow the metaphor; and while I have made such a proficiency in the law, as has ensured me the regard of my *governors*, I have paid my secret devoirs to the ladies of Helicon. My draughts at the "fountain Arc-thuse," it is true, have been principally made at the hour of midnight, when even the guardian nymphs of the well may be supposed to have slept; they are, consequently, stolen and forced. I do not see any thing in the confinement of our situations, in the mean time, which should separate congenial minds. A literary *acquaintance* is, to me, always valuable; and a *friend*, whether lettered or unlettered, is highly worth cultivation. I hope we shall both of us have enough leisure to keep up an intimacy which began very agreeably for me, and has been suffered to decay with regret.

I am not able to do justice to your unfortunate friend Gill; I knew him only superficially, and yet I saw enough of his unassuming modesty, and simplicity of manners, to feel a conviction that he had a valuable heart. The verses on the other side are perhaps beneath mediocrity; they are, sincerely, the work of thirty minutes this morning, and I send them to you with all their imperfections on their head.

Perhaps they will have sufficient merit for the Nottingham paper; at least their locality will shield them a little in that situation, and give them an interest they do not otherwise possess.

Do you think calling the Nalads of the fountains "Nymphs of Pæon" is an allowable liberty? The allusion is to their healthy and bracing qualities.

The last line of the seventh stanza contains an apparent *pleonasm*, to say no worse of it, and yet it was not written as such. The idea was from the shriek of *Death* (personified) and the scream of the dying man.

ELEGY,

Occasioned by the death of Mr. Gill, who was drowned in the River Trent, while bathing, 9th August, 1802.

1.

He sunk — th' impetuous river roll'd along,
The sullen wave betray'd his dying breath ; *
And rising sad the rustling sedge among,
The gale of evening touch'd the chords of death.

2.

Nymph of the Trent ! why didst not thou appear
To snatch the victim from thy felon wave !
Alas ! too late thou cam'st to embalm his bier,
And deck with water-flags his early grave.

3.

Triumphant, riding o'er its tumid prey,
Rolls the red stream in sanguinary pride ;
While anxious crowds, in vain, expectant stay,
And ask the swoln corse from the murdering tide.

4.

The stealing tear-drop stagnates in the eye :
The sudden sigh by friendship's bosom prov'd,
I mark them rise — I mark the gen'ral sigh ;
Unhappy youth ! and wert thou so belov'd ?

5.

On thee, as lone I trace the Trent's green brink,
When the dim twilight slumbers on the glade ;
On thee my thoughts shall dwell, nor Fancy shrink
To hold mysterious converse with thy shade.

6.

Of thee, as early I, with vagrant feet,
Hail the grey-sandal'd morn in Colwick's vale,
Of thee my sylvan reed shall warble sweet,
And wild-wood echoes shall repeat the tale.

* This line may appear somewhat obscure. It alludes to the last bubbling of the water, after a person has sunk, caused by the final expiration of the air from the lungs; inhalation, by introducing the water, produces suffocation.

7.

And, oh ! ye nymphs of Pæon ! who preside
O'er running rill and salutary stream,
Guard ye in future well the halcyon tide
From the rude Death-shriek and the dying scream.

TO MR. M. HARRIS.

Nottingham, 25th March, 1802

DEAR SIR,

I WAS greatly surprised at your letter of the twenty-seventh, for I had in reality given you up for lost. I should long since have written to you, in answer to your note about the *Lexicon*, but was perfectly ignorant of the place of your abode. For any thing I knew to the contrary, you might have been quaffing the juice of the cocoa-nut under the broad bananas of the Indies, breathing the invigorating air of liberty in the broad savannahs of America, or sweltering beneath the line. I had, however, even then, some sort of a presentiment that you were not quite so far removed from our foggy atmosphere, but not enough to prevent me from being astonished at finding you so near us as Leicester. You tell me I must not ask you what you are doing, I am, nevertheless, very anxious to know ; not so much, I flatter myself, from any inquisitiveness of spirit, as from a desire to hear of your welfare. Why, my friend, did you leave us? possessing, as you did, if not exactly the *otium cum dignitate*, something very like it ; having every comfort and enjoyment at your call, which the philosophical mind can find pleasure in ; and, above all, blessed with that easy competence, that sweet independence, which renders the fatigues of employment supportable, and even agreeable.

Quod satis est, cui contingit, nihil amplius optet.

Certainly, to a man of your disposition, no situation could have more charms than yours at the

Trent Bridge. I regard those hours which I spent with you there, while the moon-beam was trembling on the waters, and the harp of Eolus was giving us its divine swells and dying falls, as the most sweetly tranquil of my life.

* * * *

I have applied myself rather more to Latin than to Greek since you left us. I make use of Schrevelius's *Lexicon*; but shall be obliged to you to buy me the Parkhurst, at any decent price, if possible. Can you tell me any mode of joining the letters in writing in the Greek character; I find it difficult enough. The following is my manner; is it right?*

* * * *

I can hardly flatter myself that you will give yourself the trouble of corresponding with me, as all the advantage would be on my side, without any thing to compensate for it on yours; but—in fact I do not know what to say further,—only, that whenever you shall think me worthy of a letter, I shall be highly gratified.

* * * *

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

Nottingham, 10th February, 1805.

DEAR NEVILLE,

* * * *

Now with regard to the subscription, I shall certainly agree to this mode of publication, and I am very much obliged to you for what you say regarding it. But we must wait (except among your private friends) until we get Lady Derby's answer, and *Proposals* are printed. I think we shall readily raise 350, though Nottingham is the worst place imaginable for any thing of that kind. Even envy will interfere. I shall send proposals to Chesterfield, to my uncle; to Sheffield, to Miss Gales's, (booksellers,) whom I saw at Chesterfield, and who have

* The few Greek words which followed were beautifully written.

lately sent me a pressing invitation to S—, accompanied with a desire of Montgomery (the Poet Paul Positive) to see me; to Newark—Allen and Wright, my friends there, (the latter a bookseller;) and I think if they were stitched up with all the Monthly Mirrors, it would promote the subscription. You are not to take any money; that would be absolute begging: the subscribers put down their names, and pay the bookseller of whom they get the copy.

* * * *

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

Nottingham, 10th March, 1803

DEAR NEVILLE,

I AM cured of patronage hunting; I will not expose myself to any more similar mortifications, but shall thank you to send the manuscripts to Mr Hill, with a note, stating that I had written to the Duchess, and receiving no answer, you had called, and been informed by a servant, that in all probability *she never read the letter, as she desired to know what the book was left there for*, that you had, in consequence, come away with the manuscripts, under a conviction that your brother would give Her Grace no further trouble. State also, that you have received a letter from me, expressing a desire that the publication might be proceeded on without any further solicitation or delay.

A name of eminence was, nevertheless, a most desirable thing to me in Nottingham, as it would attach more respectability to the subscription; but I see all further efforts will only be productive of procrastination.

* * * *

I think you may as well begin to obtain subscribers amongst friends now, though the proposals may not be issued at present.

I have got twenty-three, without making the affair public at all, among my immediate acquaint-

ance: and mind, I neither solicit nor draw the conversation to the subject, but a rumour has got abroad, and has been received more favourably than I expected.

* * * *

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

Nottingham, 2d May, 1803.

DEAR NEVILLE,

I HAVE just gained a piece of intelligence which much vexes me. Robinson, the bookseller, knows that I have written to the Duchess of Devonshire, and he took the liberty (certainly an unwarrantable one) to mention it to * * *, whose * * * was inscribed to Her Grace. Mr. * * * said, that unless I had got a friend to deliver the poems, *personally*, into the hands of Her Grace, it was a hundred to one that they ever reached her; that the porter at the lodge burns scores of letters and packets a day, and particularly all letters by the two-penny post are consigned to the fire. The rest, if they are not particularly excepted, as inscribed with a *pass name* on the back, are thrown into a closet to be reclaimed at leisure. He said, the way he proceeded was, this — He left his card at her door, and the next day called, and was admitted. Her Grace then gave him permission, with this proviso, that the dedication was as short as possible, and contained no compliments, as the Duke had taken offence at some such compliments.

Now, as my letter was delivered by you at the door, I have scarcely a doubt that it is classed with the penny-post letters, and burnt. If my manuscripts are destroyed, I am ruined; but I hope it is otherwise. However, I think you had better call immediately, and ask for a parcel of Mr. H. White, of Nottingham. They will, of course, say they have no such parcel; and then, perhaps, you may

have an opportunity of asking whether a packet left in the manner you left mine, had any probability of reaching the Duchess. If you obtain no satisfaction, there remains no way of re-obtaining my volume but this (and I fear you will never agree to put it in execution); to leave a card with your name inscribed, (Mr. J. N. White,) and call the next day. If you are admitted, you will state to Her Grace the purport of your errand, ask for a volume of poems in manuscript, sent by your brother a fortnight ago, with a letter, (say from Nottingham, as a reason why I do not wait on her,) requesting permission of dedication to her; and that as you found Her Grace had not received them, you had taken the liberty, after many enquiries at her door, to request to see her in person.

I hope your diffidence will not be put to this test, I hope you will get the poems without trouble: as for begging patronage, I am tired to the soul of it, and shall give it up.

* * * *

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

Nottingham, ——— 1803

DEAR NEVILLE,

I WRITE you with intelligence of a very important nature. You some time ago had an intimation of my wish to enter the church, in case my deafness was not removed. — About a week ago I became acquainted with the Rev. ———, late of St John's College, Cambridge, and in consequence of what he has said, I have finally determined to enter myself of Trinity College, Cambridge, with the approbation of all my friends.

Mr. ——— says that it is a shame to keep me away from the university, and that circumstances are of no importance. He says, that if I am entered of Trinity, where they are all *select men*, I must *necessarily*, with my abilities, arrive at preferment. He says he will be answerable that the first year I

shall obtain a scholarship, or an exhibition adequate to my support. That by the time I have been of five years' standing, I shall of course become a Fellow (200*l.* a-year); that with the Fellowship I may hold a Professorship, (500*l.* per annum,) and a living or curacy, until better preferments occur. He says, that there is *no uncertainty* in the church to a truly pious man, and a man of abilities and eloquence. That those who are unprovided for, are generally men who, having no interest, are idle drones, or dissolute debauchees, and therefore ought not to expect advancement. That a poet, in particular, has the means of patronage in his pen: and that, in one word, no young man can enter the church (except he be of family) with better prospects than myself. On the other hand, Mr. Enfield has himself often observed, that my deafness will be an insuperable obstacle to me as an attorney, and has said how unfortunate a thing it was for me not to have known of the growing defect, in my organs of hearing, before I articulated myself. Under these circumstances, I conceive I should be culpable did I let go so good an opportunity as now occurs. Mr. ——— will write to all his university friends, and he says there is so much liberality there, that they will never let a young man of talents be turned from his studies by want of cash.

Yesterday I spoke to Mr. Enfield, and he, with unexampled generosity, said, that he saw clearly what an advantageous thing it would be for me; that I must be sensible what a great loss he and Mr. Coldham would suffer; but that he was certain neither he nor Mr. C——— could oppose themselves to any thing which was so much to my advantage. When Mr. C——— returns from London, the matter will be settled with my mother. All my mother's friends seem to think this an excellent thing for me, and will do all in their power to forward me.

Now we come to a very important part of the business—the *means*. I shall go with my friend Robert, in the capacity of *Sizar*, to whom the ex-

pense is not more than 60*l.* per annum. Towards this sum my mother will contribute 20*l.*, being what she allows me now for clothes; (by this means she will save my board;) and for the residue, I must trust to getting a Scholarship, or Chapel Clerk's post. But in order to make this residue *certain*, I shall, at the expiration of twelve months, publish a second volume of poems by subscription.

* * * *

My friend, Mr ———, says, that so far as his means will go, I shall never ask assistance in vain. He has but a small income, though of great family. He has just lost two rectories by scruples of conscience, and now preaches at ——— for 80*l.* a year. The following letter he put into my hand as I was leaving him, after having breakfasted with him yesterday. He put it into my hand, and requested me not to read it until I got home. It is a breach of trust letting you see it; but I wish you to know his character.

“ My dear Sir,

“ I sincerely wish I had it in my power to render
 “ you any essential service, to facilitate your passing
 “ through College: believe me, I have the *will*,
 “ but not the *means*. Should the enclosed be of any
 “ service, either to purchase books, or for other
 “ pocket expenses, I request your acceptance of it;
 “ but must entreat you not to notice it *either to*
 “ *myself*, or any living creature. I pray God that
 “ you may employ those talents that he has given
 “ you to his glory, and to the benefit of his people.
 “ I have great fears for you; the temptations of
 “ College are great. Believe me,

“ Very sincerely yours,

* * *

The enclosure was 2*l.* 2*s.* I could not refuse what was so delicately offered, though I was sorry to take it: he is truly an amiable character.

* * * *

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

Nottingham, ——— 1803.

DEAR NEVILLE,

You may conceive with what emotions I read your brotherly letter ; I feel a very great degree of aversion to burthening my family any more than I have done, and now do ; but an offer so delicate and affectionate I cannot refuse, and if I should need pecuniary assistance, which I am in hopes I shall not, *at least after the first year*, I shall without a moment's hesitation apply to my brother Neville.

My college schemes yet remain in a considerable degree of uncertainty ; I am very uneasy thereabouts I have not heard from Cambridge yet, and it is very doubtful whether there be a vacant Sizarship in Trinity ; so that I can write you no further information on this head.

* * * *

I suppose you have seen my review in this month's Mirror, and that I need not comment upon it ; such a review I neither expected, nor in fact deserve.

I shall not send up the Mirror this month, on this account, as it is policy to keep it ; and you have, no doubt, received one from Mr. Hill.

The errors in the Greek quotation I perceived the moment I got down the first copies, and altered them, in most, with the pen ; they are very unlucky ; I have sent up the copies for the reviews myself, in order that I might make the correction in them.

I have got now to write letters to all the reviewers, and hope you will excuse my abrupt conclusion of this letter on that score.

I am,

Dear Neville,

Affectionately yours,

H. K. WHITE.

I shall write to Mr. Hill now the first thing; I owe much to him

TO MR. R. W. ALMOND.

Nottingham, 22d November, 1803.

DEAR ROBERT,

* * * * *

I was happy enough to be introduced to Mr. Robinson* a few days ago; I passed half an hour with him alone, by his desire, and afterwards took tea and supper with him, his wife and daughter, at Mrs. M * * 's. I cannot describe to you, in adequate terms, the domestic character of this venerable man. He is all cheerfulness and complacency, good-humoured, and sometimes even jocund; his conversation at the same time *instructive*, and in no common degree, *entertaining*. He is full of anecdotes of eminent pious characters of the last century, as well as of this. He knew Mr. Venn very well, and he is intimate with O * * * ; he gave us a most affecting representation of his last interview with the *former*, just before his death. He depicted the resigned and placid countenance of the aged and dying Christian, so admirably in his features, and suited his voice so exactly to the affecting state of a very old man, sinking under the weight of years, that he actually drew tears into my eyes. During the whole evening, I was pleased to observe he directed his whole conversation to me, and, as he had before slightly examined me, it gave me the assurance that he was satisfied with me. He promised me every assistance that he could command, and when we shook hands at parting, he said, "Mr. White, I wish you may live to become an ornament to the Ministry; I trust you will have assistance. Fear

* The late Rev. Mr. Robinson, Vicar of St. Mary's, Leicester; the author of "Scripture Characters," &c. &c.

not, go on, and the Lord prosper you." He recommended me to labour at the Greek very diligently, and thought I had delayed it too long

* * * *

My dear friend, I cannot adequately express what I owe to you on the score of religion. I told Mr. Robinson you were the *first instrument* of my being brought to think deeply on religious subjects ; and I feel more and more every day, that if it had not been for you, I might, most probably, have been now buried in apathy and unconcern. Though I am in a great measure blessed, — I mean blessed with *faith*, now pretty stedfast, and heavy convictions, I am far from being happy. My sins have been of a dark hue, and manifold : I have made *Fame* my God, and *Ambition* my shrine. I have placed all my hopes on the things of this world. I have knelt to Dagon ; I have worshipped the evil creations of my *own proud* heart, and God had well nigh turned his countenance from me in wrath ; perhaps one step further, and he might have shut me for ever from his rest. I now turn my eyes to Jesus, my saviour, my atonement, with hope and confidence : he will not repulse the imploring penitent ; his arms are open to all, they are open even to me ; and in return for such a mercy, what can I do less than dedicate my whole life to his service ? My thoughts would fain recur at intervals to my former delights, but I am now on my guard to restrain and keep them in. I know now *where* they *ought* to centre, and, with the blessing of God, they shall *there* all tend

My next publication of poems will be solely religious. I shall not destroy those of a different nature, which now lie before me ; but they will, most probably, sleep in my desk, until, in the good time of my great Lord and Master, I shall receive my passport from this world of vanity. I am now bent on a higher errand than that of the attainment of poetical fame ; poetry, in future, will be my *relaxation*, not my employment. — Adieu to literary ambition ! " You do not aspire to be prime

minister," said Mr Robinson; "you covet a far higher character—to be the humblest among those who minister to their Maker."

* * * *

TO MR. B. MADDOCK.

Nottingham, ———

MY DEAR BEN,

* * * *

AND now, my dear Ben, I must confess your letter gave me much pain; there is a tone of despondence in it which I must condemn, inasmuch as it is occasioned by circumstances which do not involve your own exertions, but which are utterly independent of yourself if you do your duty, why lament that it is not *productive*? In whatever situation we may be placed, there is a duty we owe to God and religion: it is resignation;—nay, I may say, contentment. All things are in the hands of God, and shall we mortals (if we do not absolutely repine at his dispensations) be fretful under them? I do beseech you, my dear Ben, summon up the Christian within you, and, steeled with holy fortitude, go on your way rejoicing! There is a species of morbid sensibility to which I myself have often been a victim, which preys upon my heart, and, without giving birth to one actively useful or benevolent feeling, does but brood on selfish sorrows, and magnify its own misfortunes. The evils of such a sensibility, I pray to God you may never feel; but I would have you beware, for it grows on persons of a certain disposition before they are aware of it.

I am sorry my letter gave you pain, and I trust my suspicions were without foundation. Time, my dear Ben, is the discoverer of hearts, and I feel a sweet confidence that he will knit ours yet more closely together.

I believe my lot in life is nearly fixed; a month

will tell me whether I am to be a minister of Christ, in the established church, *or out*. One of the two, I am now finally resolved, if it please God, to be. I know my own unworthiness : I feel deeply that I am far from being that pure and undefiled temple of the Holy Ghost that a minister of the word of life ought to be ; yet still I have an unaccountable hope that the Lord will sanctify my efforts, that he will purify me, and that I shall become his devoted servant.

I am at present under afflictions and contentions of spirit, heavier than I have yet ever experienced. I think, at times, I am mad, and destitute of religion. My pride is not yet subdued : the unfavourable review (in the "*Monthly*") of my unhappy work, has cut deeper than you could have thought ; not in a literary point of view, but as it affects my respectability. It represents me actually as a *beggar*, going about gathering money to put myself at college, when my book is worthless ; and this with every appearance of candour. They have been sadly misinformed respecting me : this Review goes before me wherever I turn my steps ; it haunts me incessantly, and I am persuaded it is an instrument in the hand of Satan to drive me to distraction. *I must* leave Nottingham. If the answer of the Elland Society be unfavourable, I purpose writing to the Marquis of Wellesley, to offer myself as a student at the academy he has instituted at Fort William, in Bengal, and at the proper age to take orders there. The missionaries at that place have done wonders already, and I should, I hope, be a valuable labourer in the vineyard. If the Marquis take no notice of my application, or do not accede to my proposal, I shall place myself in some other way of making a meet preparation for the holy office, either in the Calvinistic Academy, or in one of the Scotch Universities, where I shall be able to live at scarcely any expense. *

* * * *

* This letter was not seen by the Editor till after the prefatory memoir was printed.

TO MR. R. A——.

Nottingham, 18th April, 1801.

MY DEAR ROBERT,

I HAVE just received your letter. Most fervently do I return thanks to God for this providential opening; it has breathed new animation into me, and my breast expands with the prospect of becoming the minister of Christ where I most desired it; but where I almost feared all probability of success was nearly at an end. Indeed, I had begun to turn my thoughts to the dissenters, as people of whom I was destined, not by choice, but necessity, to become the pastor. Still, although I knew I should be happy any where, so that I were a profitable labourer in the vineyard, I did, by no means, feel that calm, that indescribable satisfaction which I do, when I look toward that church, which I think, in the main, formed on the apostolic model, and from which I am decidedly of opinion there is no positive grounds for dissent. I return thanks to God for keeping me so long in suspense, for I know it has been beneficial to my soul, and I feel a considerable trust that the way is now about to be made clear, and that my doubts and fears on this head will, in due time, be removed.

Could I be admitted to St. John's, I conclude, from what I have heard, that my provision would be adequate, not otherwise. From my mother I could depend on 15*l.* or 20*l.* a-year, if she live, toward college expenses, and I could spend the long vacation at home. The 20*l.* per annum from my brother would suffice for clothes, &c.; so that if I could procure 20*l.* a year more, as you seem to think I may, by the kindness of Mr. Martyn, I conceive I might,

with economy, be supported at college; of this, however, you are the best judge.

You may conceive how much I feel obliged by Mr. Martyn on this head, as well as to you, for your unwearied exertions. Truly, friends have risen up to me in quarters where I could not have expected them, and they have been raised, as it were, by the finger of God. I have reason, above all men, to be grateful to the Father of all mercies for his loving-kindness towards me; surely no one can have had more experience of the fatherly concern with which God watches over, protects, and succours his chosen seed, than I have had; and surely none could have less expected such a manifestation of his grace, and none could have less merited its continuance.

* * * *

In pursuance of your injunction, I shall lay aside Grotius, and take up Cicero and Livy, or Tacitus. In Greek, I must rest contented for the ensuing fourteen days with the Testament; I shall then have conquered the Gospels, and, if things go on smoothly, the Acts. I shall then read Homer, and perhaps Plato's Phædon, which I lately picked up at a stall. My classical knowledge is very superficial; it has very little depth or solidity; but I have really so small a portion of leisure, that I wonder at the progress I do make. I believe I must copy the old divines, in rising at four o'clock: for my evenings are so much taken up with visiting the sick, and with young men who come, for religious conversation, that there is but little time for study.

* * * *

TO MR. B. MADDOCK.

Nottingham, 21th April, 1801

MY DEAR BEN,

TRULY I am grieved, that whenever I undertake to be the messenger of glad tidings, I should frustrate my own design, and communicate to my good intelligence a taint of sadness, as it were by contagion. Most joyfully did I sit down to write my last, as I knew I had wherewith to administer comfort to you ; and yet, after all, I find that, by gloomy anticipations, I have converted my balsam into bitterness, and have by no means imparted that unmixed pleasure which I wished to do

Forebodings and dismal calculations are, I am convinced, very useless, and I think very pernicious speculations. — “Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof.” — And yet how apt are we, when imminent trials molest us, to increase the burden by melancholy ruminations on future evils! — evils which exist only in our own imaginations — and which, should they be realised, will certainly arrive in time to oppress us sufficiently, without our adding to their existence by previous apprehension, and thus voluntarily incurring the penalty of misfortunes yet in perspective, and trials yet unborn. Let us guard, then, I beseech you, against these ungrateful divinations into the womb of futurity — we know our affairs are in the hands of one who has wisdom to do for us beyond our narrow prudence, and we cannot, by taking thought, avoid any afflictive dispensation which God’s providence may have in store for us. Let us therefore enjoy with thankfulness the present sunshine, without adverting to the coming storm. Few and transitory are the intervals of calm and settled day with which we are cheered in the tempestuous voyage of life ; we ought therefore to enjoy them, while they last, with unmixed delight, and not turn the blessing into a curse by lamenting that it cannot endure without interrup-

tion. We, my beloved friend, are united in our affections by no common bands — bands which, I trust, are too strong to be easily dissevered — yet we know not what God may intend with respect to us, nor have we any business to enquire — we should rely on the mercy of our Father, who is in heaven — and if we are to anticipate, we should hope the best. I stand self-accused therefore for my prurient, and, I may say, *irreligious* fears. A prudent foresight, as it may guard us from many impending dangers, is laudable; but a morbid propensity to seize and brood over future ills, is agonising, while it is utterly useless, and therefore ought to be repressed.

I have received intelligence, since writing the above, which nearly settles my future destination. A ——— informs me that Mr. Martyn, a fellow of St. John's, has about 20*l* a year to dispose of, towards keeping a religious man at college — and he seems convinced that if my mother allows me 20*l*. a-year more, I may live at *St. John's*, provided I could gain admittance, which, at that college, is difficult, unless you have previously stood in the list for a year. Mr Martyn thinks, if I propose myself immediately, I shall get upon the foundation, and by this day's post I have transmitted testimonials of my classical acquirements. In a few days therefore, I hope to hear that I am on the boards of St. John's.

Mr. Dashwood has informed me, that he also has received a letter from a gentleman, a magistrate, near Cambridge, offering me all the assistance in his power towards getting through college, so as there be no obligation. My way, therefore, is now pretty clear.

I have just risen from my knees, returning thanks to our heavenly Father for this providential opening — my heart is quite full. Help me to be grateful to him, and pray that I may be a faithful minister of his word.

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

Nottingham.

MY DEAR NEVILLE,

I sit down with unfeigned pleasure to write in compliance with your request, that I would explain to you the real doctrines of the Church of England, or, what is the same thing, of the Bible. The subject is most important, inasmuch as it affects that part of man which is incorruptible, and which must exist for ever—his soul. When God made the brute creation, he merely embodied the dust of the earth, and gave it the power of locomotion, or of moving about, and of existing in a certain sphere. In order to afford mute animals a rule of action, by which they might be kept alive, he implanted in them certain instincts, from which they can never depart. Such is that of self-preservation, and the selection of proper food. But he not only endued man with these powers, but he gave him *mind*, or spirit—a faculty which enables him to ruminate on the objects which he does not see—to compare impressions—to invent—and to feel pleasure and pain, when their causes are either gone or past, or lie in the future. This is what constitutes the human soul. It is an immaterial essence—no one knows what it consists of, or where it resides; the brain and the heart are the organs which it most seems to affect, but it would be absurd to infer therefrom, that the material organs of the heart and the brain constitute the soul, seeing that the impressions of the mind sometimes affect one organ and sometimes the other. Thus, when any of the passions—love, hope, fear, pleasure, or pain, are excited, we feel them at our heart. When we discuss a topic of cool reasoning, the process is carried on in the brain; yet both parts are in a greater or less degree acted upon on all occasions, and we may therefore conclude, that the soul resides in neither individually, but is an

immaterial spirit, which occasionally impresses the one, and occasionally the other. That the soul is immaterial, has been proved to a mathematical demonstration. When we strike, we lift up our arm — when we walk, we protrude our legs alternately — but when we think, we move no organ : the reason depends on no action of matter, but seems as it were to hover over us, to regulate the machine of our bodies, and to meditate and speculate on things abstract as well as simple, extraneous as well as connected with our individual welfare, without having any bond which can unite it with our gross corporeal bodies. The flesh is like the temporary tabernacle which the soul inhabits, governs, and regulates ; but as it does not consist in any organisation of matter, our bodies may die, and return to the dust from whence they were taken, while our souls — incorporeal essences — are incapable of death and annihilation. The spirit is that portion of God's own immortal nature, which he breathed into our clay at our birth, and which therefore cannot be destroyed, but will continue to exist when its earthly habitation is mingled with its parent dust. We must admit, therefore, what all ages and nations, savage as well as civilised, have acknowledged, that we have souls, and that, as they are incorporeal, they do not die with our bodies, but are necessarily immortal. The question then naturally arises, what becomes of them after death ? Here man of his own wisdom must stop : — but God has thought fit, in his mercy, to reveal to us in a great measure the secret of our natures, and in the Holy Scriptures we find a plain and intelligible account of the purposes of our existence, and the things we have to expect in the world to come. And here I shall just remark, that the authenticity and divine inspiration of Moses are established beyond a doubt, and that no *learned* man can possibly deny their authority. Over all nations, even among the savages of America, cut out as it were from the eastern world, there are traditions extant of the flood, of Noah, Moses, and other patriarchs, by names which come so near

the proper ones, as to remove all doubt of their identity. You know mankind is continually increasing in number, and consequently, if you make a calculation backwards, the numbers must continue lessening and lessening, until you come to a point where there was only one man. Well, according to the most probable calculation, this point will be found to be about 5,800 years back, viz. the time of the creation, making allowance for the flood. Moreover, there are appearances upon the surface of the globe, which denote the manner in which it was founded, and the process thus developed will be found to agree very exactly with the *figurative* account of Moses — (Of this I shall treat in a subsequent letter) — Admitting, then, that the books of the Pentateuch were written by divine inspiration, we see laid before us the whole history of our race, and, including the Prophets, and the New Testament, the whole scheme of our future existence. We learn, in the first place, that God created man in a state of perfect happiness, that he was placed in the midst of every thing that could delight the eye, or fascinate the mind; and that he had only one command imposed upon him, which he was to keep under the penalty of death. This command God has been pleased to cover to our eyes with impenetrable obscurity. Moses, in the figurative language of the east, calls it eating the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. But this we *can* understand, that man rebelled against the command of his Maker, and plunged himself by that crime from a state of bliss to a state of sorrow, and, in the end, of death — By death here is meant, the exclusion of the soul from future happiness. It followed, that if Adam fell from bliss, his posterity must fall, for the fruit must be like the parent stock: and a man made as it were dead, must likewise bring forth children under the same curse. — Evil cannot beget good.

But the benign Father of the universe had pity upon Adam and his posterity, and, knowing the

frailty of our nature, he did not wish to assume the whole terrors of his just vengeance. Still God is a being who is infinitely *just*, as well as infinitely *merciful*, and therefore his decrees are not to be dispensed with, and his offended justice must have expiation. The case of mankind was deplorable; — myriads yet unborn were implicated by the crime of their common progenitor in general ruin. But the mercy of God prevailed, and Jesus Christ, the Messiah, of whom all ages talked before he came down amongst men, offered himself up as an atonement for man's crimes — The Son of God himself, infinite in mercy, offered to take up the human form, to undergo the severest pains of human life, and the severest pangs of death; he offered to lie under the power of the grave for a certain period, and, in a word, to sustain all the punishment of our primitive disobedience in the stead of man. The atonement was infinite, because God's justice is infinite; and nothing but such an atonement could have saved the fallen race.

The death of Christ then takes away the stain of original sin, and gives man at least the power of *attaining* eternal bliss. Still our salvation is conditional, and we have certain requisitions to comply with ere we can be secure of heaven — The next question then is, What are the conditions on which we are to be saved? The word of God here comes in again in elucidation of our duty: the chief point insisted upon is, that we should keep God's Law contained in the Ten Commandments; but as the omission or breach of *one* article of the twelve tables is a crime just of as great magnitude as the original sin, and entails the penalty on us as much as if we had infringed the whole, God, seeing our frailty, provided a means of effecting our salvation, in which nothing should be required of us but reliance on his truth. — God sent the Saviour to bear the weight of our sins: he, therefore, requires us to believe implicitly, that through his blood we shall be accepted. This is the succedaneum which he imposed in lieu of the observance of the moral law.

Faith! BELIEVE, AND YE SHALL BE SAVED — He requires from us to throw ourselves upon the Redeemer, to look for acceptance through him alone, to regard ourselves as depraved, debased, fallen creatures, who can do nothing worthy in his sight, and who only hope for mercy through the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Faith is the foundation-stone; Faith is the superstructure, Faith is all in all. — “By Faith are ye saved, by Faith are ye justified.”

How easy, my dear Neville, are the conditions God imposes upon us! He only commands us to feel the tie of common gratitude, to trust in the mediation of his Son, and all shall be forgiven us. And shall our pride, our deluded imaginations, our false philosophy, interfere to blind our eyes to the beauties of so benevolent, so benign a system? — Or shall earthly pleasures engross all our thoughts, nor leave space for a care for our souls? — God forbid. As for Faith, if our hearts are hardened, and we cannot feel that implicit, that fervent belief, which the Scripture requires, let us pray to God that he will send his Holy Spirit down upon us, that he will enlighten our understanding with the knowledge of that truth which is too vast, too sublime for human understandings, unassisted by Divine Grace, to comprehend.

I have here drawn a hasty outline of the gospel-plan of salvation. In a future letter I shall endeavour to fill it up. At present I shall only say, think on these things! — They are of moment inconceivable — Read your Bible, in order to confirm yourself in these sublime truths, and pray to God to sanctify to you the instructions it contains. At present I would turn your attention, exclusively, to the New Testament. Read also the book which accompanies this letter; — it is by the great Locke, and will serve to show you what so illustrious a philosopher thought of Revelation.

TO MR. R. A——.

Nottingham, May 7th, 1801.

DEAR ROBERT,

* * * *

You don't know how I long to hear how your declamation was received, and "all about it," as we say in these parts. I hope to see it, when I see its author and pronouncer Themistocles, no doubt, received due praise from you for his valour and *subtlety*, but I trust you poured down a torrent of eloquent indignation upon the ruling principles of his actions, and the motive of his conduct, while you exalted the mild and unassuming virtues of his more amiable rival. The object of Themistocles was the aggrandisement of himself, that of Aristides the welfare and prosperity of the state. The one endeavoured to swell the glory of his country; the other to promote its security, external and internal, foreign and domestic. While you estimated the services which Themistocles rendered to the state, in opposition to those of Aristides, you of course remembered that the former had the largest scope for action, and that he influenced his countrymen to fall into all his plans, while they banished his competitor, not by his superior wisdom or goodness, but by those intrigues and factious artifices which Aristides would have disdained. Themistocles certainly did use *bad* means to a desirable end; and if we may assume it as an axiom, that Providence will forward the designs of a good sooner than those of a bad man; whatever inequality of abilities there may be between the two characters, it will follow that, had Athens remained under the guidance of Aristides, it would have been better for her. The difference between Themistocles and Aristides seems to me to be this: That the former was a wise and a *fortunate* man; and that the latter, though he had equal wisdom, had not equal good fortune. We may admire the heroic qualities and the crafty policy of

the one, but to the temperate and disinterested patriotism, the good and virtuous dispositions of the other, we can alone give the meed of heart-felt *praise*.

I only mean by this, that we must not infer Themistocles to have been *the better or the greater* man, because he rendered more essential services to the state than Aristides, nor even that his system was the most judicious,—but only, that, by decision of character, and by good fortune, his measures succeeded best.

* * * *

The rules of composition are, in my opinion, very few. If we have a mature acquaintance with our subject, there is little fear of our expressing it as we ought, provided we have had *some little* experience in writing. The first thing to be aimed at is perspicuity. *That* is the great point, which, once attained, will make all other obstacles smooth to us. In order to write perspicuously, we should have a *perfect* knowledge of the topic on which we are about to treat, in all its bearings and dependencies. We should think well beforehand what will be the clearest method of conveying the drift of our design. This is similar to what the painters call the *massing*, or getting the effect of the more prominent lights and shades by broad dashes of the pencil. When our thesis is well arranged in our mind, and we have predisposed our arguments, reasonings, and illustrations, so as they shall all conduce to the object in view, in regular sequence and gradation, we may sit down and express our ideas in as clear a manner as we can, always using such words as are most suited to our purpose; and when two modes of expression, equally luminous, present themselves, selecting that which is the most harmonious and elegant.

It sometimes happens that writers, in aiming at perspicuity, overreach themselves, by employing too many words, and perplex the mind by a multiplicity of illustrations. This is a very fatal error.

Circumlocution seldom conduces to plainness; and you may take it as a maxim, that, when once an idea is *clearly expressed*, every additional stroke will only confuse the mind, and diminish the effect.

When you have once learned to express yourself with clearness and propriety, you will soon arrive at elegance. Every thing else, in fact, will follow as of course. But I warn you not to invert the order of things, and be paying your addresses to the Graces, when you ought to be studying perspicuity. Young writers, in general, are too solicitous to round off their periods, and regulate the cadences of their style. Hence the feeble pleonasm and idle repetitions which deform their pages. If you would have your compositions vigorous, and masculine in their tone, let every word TELL; and when you detect yourself polishing off a sentence with expletives, regard yourself in exactly the same predicament with a poet who should cke out the measure of his verses with "titum, titom, tee, sir."

So much for style ———

* * * *

TO MR. R. A——.

Nottingham, 9th May, 1801.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

* * * *

I HAVE not spoken as yet to Messrs Coldham and Enfield. Your injunction to suspend so doing has left me in a state of mind, which, I think, I am blameable for indulging, but which is indescribably painful. I had no sleep last night, partly from anxiety, and partly from the effects of a low fever, which has preyed on my nerves for the last six or seven days. I am afraid, Robert, my religion is very superficial. I ought not to feel this distrust of God's providence. Should I now be prevented

from going to college, I shall regard it as a just punishment for my want of faith.

I conclude Mr. Martyn has failed in procuring the aid he expected? Is it so?

* * * *

On these contingencies, Robert, you must know, from my peculiar situation, I shall never be able to get to college. My mother, at all times averse, has lately been pressed by one of the deacons of Castlegate Meeting, to prevail on me to go to Dr. Williams. This idea now fills her head, and she would feel no small degree of pleasure in the failure of my resources for college. Besides this, her natural anxiety for my welfare will never allow her to permit me to go to the University, depending almost entirely on herself, knowing not only the *inadequacy*, but the great *uncertainty*, of her aid. Coldham and Enfield must likewise be satisfied that my way is clear: I tremble, I almost despair. A variety of contending emotions, which I cannot particularise, agitate my mind. I tremble lest I should have mistaken my call: these are solemn warnings:—but no—I cannot entertain the thought. To the ministry I am devoted, I believe, by God; in what way must be left to his providence.

* * * *

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

Cambridge, 25th May, 1801.

DEAR NEVILLE,

I SCARCELY know what to say on the score of coming to London. You may be sure I should have no objection; but as it is an expense without answering any end, I cannot but hesitate. If you think it may possibly be at all serviceable to me, so far as relates to the University, I will certainly come, and stay two or three days, otherwise I think it will be my duty to deny myself this pleasure. I shall stay here

till Wednesday next, in case I do not go to town, and till Monday, if I do. So, if you will write by return of post, and say whether you think I may do good in London, I shall be better able to decide.

I am truly gratified by your brotherly offer with regard to the expenses, but I am by no means inclined to make that an inducement to come to town, because if the cost be *unnecessarily* incurred, it is no matter whether it come out of your pocket, or my own.

I have not been able to do any good here yet; indeed I have not seen Mr. Simeon, but I am admitted of St. John's, and I shall certainly reside, if I trust only to my own resources, as there is a man of *that* college, who has only 20*l.* per annum; and I have been assured by one of the principals, that, (while the Sizarships are so very advantageous,) I may live with frugality for that sum.

* * * *

I find one great objection to me here, is, that I am of dissenting family, and am rather inclined that way myself, (which latter is *by no means true*;) so I have no very sanguine expectations; but I shall make no concessions, nor at all attempt to ingratiate myself with men who may be thus prejudiced. I thank God, I am independent enough to need no artifices of obsequiousness or conciliation.

I am glad you heard Mr. Simeon; he is a truly pious man, and an excellent preacher.

When I get to Nottingham, I shall continue my letters on the Christian religion, of which my last was only an introduction, and shall show how exactly the doctrine of the church coincides with the Scriptures.

I must conclude by recommending you, in a spiritual sense, to the guidance of the all-wise and merciful God, who alone is able to bring you to his perfect light, and establish you in those paths which lead to peace, and are themselves perfect enjoyment.

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

Nottingham, June, 1801

DEAR NEVILLE,

IN answer to your question, Whether the Sizars have any duties to perform? I answer, No. Somebody, perhaps, has been hinting that there are servile offices to be performed by Sizars. It is a common opinion, but perfectly erroneous. The *Oxford servitors*, I believe, have many unpleasant duties, but the Sizars at Cambridge only differ from the rest in name.

* * * *

TO MR. B. MADDOCK.

Nottingham, June 13th, 1801

MY DEAR BEN,

I do not sit down to write you a long letter, for I have been too much exhausted with mathematics to have much vigour of mind left. My lines will therefore be wider than they are wont to be, and I shall, for once, be obliged to diffuse a little matter over a broad surface. For a consolatory letter I trust you have little need, as by this time you have no doubt learned to meet with calmness those temporary privations and inconveniences which, in this life, we must expect, and therefore should be prepared to encounter.

* * * *

This is true—this is *Christian* philosophy: it is a philosophy in which we must all, sooner or later, be instituted, and which, if you steadfastly persist in seeking, I am sure God will assist you to your manifest comfort and peace.

There *are* sorrows, and there *are* misfortunes which bow down the spirit beyond the aid of all human comfort. Of these, I know, my dear Ben,

you have had more than common experience ; but while the cup of life does overflow with draughts of such extreme asperity, we ought to fortify ourselves against *lesser* evils, as unimportant to man, who has much heavier woes to expect, and to the Christian, whose joys are laid beyond the verge of mortal existence. There are afflictions, there are privations, where *death* and *hopes* IRRECOVERABLY blasted leave no prospect of retrieval ; when I would no more say to the mourner, " Man, wherefore weepest thou ? " than I would ask the winds why they blew, or the tempest why it raged. Sorrows like these are sacred ; but the inferior troubles of *partial* separation, vexatious occupation, and opposing current of human affairs, are such as ought not, at least immoderately, to affect a Christian, but rather ought to be contemplated as the necessary *accidents* of life, and disregarded while their pains are more sensibly felt.

Do not think, I beseech you, my dear Ben, that I wish to represent your sorrows as light or trivial ; I know they are not light ; I know they are not trivial ; but I wish to induce you to summon up the man within you ; and while those unhappy troubles, which you cannot alleviate, must continue to torment you, I would exhort you to rise superior to the crosses of life, and show yourself a genuine disciple of Jesus Christ, in the endurance of evil without repining, or unavailable lamentations.

Blest as you are with the good testimony of an approving conscience, and happy in an intimate communion with the all-pure and all-merciful God, these trifling concerns ought not to molest you ; nay, were the tide of adversity to turn strong against you, even were your friends to forsake you, and abject poverty to stare you in the face, you ought to be abundantly thankful to God for his mercies to you ; you ought to consider yourself still as rich, yea, to look around you, and say, I am far happier than the sons of men.

This is a system of philosophy which, for myself, I shall not only preach, but practise. We are here

for nobler purposes than to waste the fleeting moments of our lives in lamentations and wailings over troubles, which, in their widest extent, do but affect the present state, and which, perhaps, only regard our personal ease and prosperity. Make me an outcast — a beggar ; place me a bare-footed pilgrim on the top of the Alps or the Pyrennees, and I should have wherewithal to sustain the spirit within me, in the reflection that all this was but as for a moment, and that a period would come when wrong, and injury, and trouble should be no more. Are we to be so utterly enslaved by habit and association, that we shall spend our lives in anxiety and bitter care, only that we may find a covering for our bodies, or the means of assuaging hunger ? for what else is an anxiety after the world ? Or are even the followers of Christ themselves to be infected with the inane, the childish desire of heaping together wealth ? Were a man, in the way of making a large fortune, to take up his hat and stick, and say, " I am useless here, and unhappy ; I will go and abide with the Gentoo or the Paraguay, where I shall be happy and useful," he would be laughed at ; but I say he would prove himself a more reasonable and virtuous man, than he who binds himself down to a business which he dislikes, because it would be accounted strange or foolish to abandon so good a concern, and who heaps up wealth for which he has little relish, because the world accounts it policy.

I will refrain from pursuing this tone of reasoning. I know the weakness of human nature, and I know that we may argue with a deal of force, to show the folly of grief, when we ourselves are its passive victims. But whether strength of mind prevail with you, or whether you still indulge in melancholy bodings and repinings, I am still your friend, nay, your *sympathising* friend. Hard, and callous, and " unfeeling " as I may seem, I have a heart for my ever dear Benjamin.

HENRY KIRKE WHITE

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

Wilford, near Nottingham, ———, 1804.

DEAR NEVILLE,

I NOW write to you from a little cottage at Wilford, where I have taken a room for a fortnight, as well for the benefit of my health, as for the advantage of uninterrupted study. I live in a homely house, in a homely style, but am well occupied, and perfectly at my ease.

And now, my dear Brother, I must sincerely beg pardon for all those manifold neglects of which I cannot but accuse myself towards you. When I recollect innumerable requests in your letters, which I have not noticed, and many enquiries I have not satisfied, I almost feel afraid that you will imagine I no longer regard your letters with brotherly fondness, and that you will cease to exercise towards me your wonted confidence and friendship. Indeed, you may take my word, they have arisen from my peculiar circumstances, and not from any unconcern or disregard of your wishes. I am now bringing my affairs (laugh not at the word) into some regularity, after all the hurry and confusion in which they have been plunged, by the distraction of mind attending my publication, and the projected change of my destination in life.

* * * *

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

Wilford, near Nottingham, ———, 1804.

DEAR NEVILLE,

* * * *

I HAVE run very much on the wrong side of the post here; for having sent copies round to such persons as had given me in their names, as sub-

scribers, with compliments, they have placed them to the account of presents!

* * * *

And now, my dear Neville, I must give you the most ingenious specimen of the invention of petty envy you perhaps ever heard of. When Addison produced "Cato," it was currently received, that he had bought it of a vicar for 40*l*. The Nottingham gentry, knowing me too poor to buy my poems, thought they could do no better than place it to the account of family-affection, and, lo! Mrs. Smith is become the sole author, who has made use of her brother's name as a feint! I heard of this report *first* covertly; it was said that Mrs. Smith was the principal writer: next it was said that I was the author of one of the inferior smaller pieces only ("My Study,") and, lastly, on mentioning the circumstances to Mr. A —, he confessed that he had heard several times that my "sister was the sole quill-driver of the family, and that master Henry, in particular, was rather shallow," but that he had refrained from telling me, because he thought it would vex me. Now, as to the vexing me, it only has afforded me a hearty laugh. I sent my compliments to one great lady, whom I heard propagating this ridiculous report, and congratulated her on her ingenuity, telling her, as a great secret, that neither my sister or myself had any claim to any of the poems, for the right author was the Great Mogul's cousin-german. The best part of the story is, that my good friend, Benj. Maddock, found means to get me to write verses *extempore*, to prove whether I could tag rhymes or not, which, it seems, he doubted.

The following are the verses referred to in the foregoing letter: they were composed *extempore* in the presence of this friend, as an evidence of Henry's ability to write poetry: —

THOU base repliner at another's joy,
 Whose eye turns green at merit not thine own,
 Oh, far away from generous Britons fly,
 And find in meaner climes a sitter throne.
 Away, away, it shall not be,
 Thou shalt not dare defile our plains ;
 The truly generous heart disdains
 Thy meaner, lowlier fires, while he
 Joys at another's joy, and smiles at others' jollity.
 Triumphant monster ! though thy schemes succeed :
 Schemes laid in Acheron, the brood of night,
 Yet, but a little while, and nobly freed,
 Thy happy victim will emerge to light ;
 When o'er his head in silence that reposes,
 Some kindred soul shall come to drop a tear ;
 Then will his last cold pillow turn to roses,
 Which thou hadst planted with the thorn severe ;
 Then will thy baseness stand confest, and all
 Will curse the ungen'rous fate, that bade a Poet fall.

* * * *

Yet, ah ! thy arrows are *too* keen, too sure :
 Could'st thou not pitch upon another prey ?
 Alas ! in robbing him thou robb'st the poor,
 Who only boast what thou would'st take away ;
 See the lorn Bard at midnight-study sitting,
 O'er his pale features streams his dying lamp ;
 While o'er fond Fancy's pale perspective flitting,
 Successive forms their fleet ideas stamp.
 Yet say, is bliss upon his brow imprest ;
 Does jocund Health in thought's still mansion
 Lo, the cold dews that on his temples rest, [live ?
 That short quick sigh — their sad responses give.
 And canst thou rob a Poet of his song ;
 Snatch from the bard his trivial meed of praise ?
 Small are his gains, nor does he hold them long :
 Then leave, oh, leave him to enjoy his lays
 While yet he lives — for to his merits just,
 Though future ages join, his fame to raise,
 Will the loud trump awake his cold unheeding dust ?

* * * *

TO MR. B. MADDOCK.

Nottingham, 7th July, 1801

MY DEAR BLY,

THE *real* wants of life are few, the support of the body, simply, is no expensive matter; and as we are not mad upon silks and satins, the covering of it will not be more costly. The only superfluity I should covet would be books, but I have learned how to abridge that pleasure; and having sold the flower of my library for the amazing sum of Six Guineas, I mean to try whether meditation will not supply the place of general reading, and probably, by the time I am poor and needy, I shall look upon a large library like a fashionable wardrobe, goodly and pleasant, but as to the real utility, indifferent.

So much for Stoicism, and now for *Monachism* — I shall never, never marry! It cannot, must not be. As to affections, mine are already engaged as much as they will ever be, and this is one reason why I believe my life will be a life of celibacy. I pray to God that it may be so, and that I may be happy in that state. I love too ardently to make love innocent, and therefore I say farewell to it. Besides, I have another inducement; I cannot introduce a woman into poverty for my love's sake, nor could I well bear to see such a one as I must marry struggling with narrow circumstances, and sighing for the fortunes of her children. No, I say, forbear! and may the example of St. Gregory of Naz and St. Basil support me

All friends are well except your humble scribe, who has got a little too much into his old way since your departure. Studying and musing, and dreaming of every thing but his health; still, amid all his studying, musings, and dreams,

Your true friend and brother,

H. K. WHITE.

TO THE EDITOR.

Nottingham, July 9th, 1801.

* * *

I CAN now inform you, that I have reason to believe my way through college is clear before me. From what source I know not; but through the hands of Mr. Simeon I am provided with 30*l.* per annum; and while things go on so prosperously as they do now, I can command 20*l.* or 30*l.* more from my friends, and this, in all probability, until I take my degree. The friends to whom I allude are my *mother and brother*

My mother has, for these five years past, kept a boarding school in Nottingham: and so long as her school continues in its present state, she can supply me with 15*l.* or 20*l.* per annum, without inconvenience; but should she die, (and her health is, I fear, but infirm,) that resource will altogether fail. Still, I think, my prospect is so good as to preclude any anxiety on my part; and perhaps my income will be more than adequate to my wants, as I shall be a Sizar of St. John's, where the college-emoluments are more than commonly large.

In this situation of my affairs, you will perhaps agree with me in thinking that a subscription for a volume of poems will not be necessary; and, certainly, that measure is one which will be better avoided, if it may be. I have lately looked over what poems I have by me in manuscript, and find them more numerous than I expected; but many of them would perhaps be styled *mopish* and *mawkish*, and even *misanthropic*, in the language of the world: though from the latter sentiment, I am sure I can say, no one is more opposite than I am. These poems, therefore, will never see the light, as, from a teacher of that word which gives all strength to the feeble, more fortitude and Christian philosophy may, with justice, be expected than they display. The remainder of my verses would not

possess any great interest : mere description is often mere nonsense : and I have acquired a strange habit, whenever I do point out a train of moral sentiment from the contemplation of a picture, to give it a gloomy and querulous cast, when there is nothing in the occasion but what ought to inspire joy and gratitude. I have one* poem, however, of some length, which I shall preserve, and I have another of considerable magnitude in design, but of which only a part is written, which I am fairly at a loss whether to commit to the flames, or at some future opportunity to finish. The subject is the death of Christ. I have no friend whose opinion is at all to be relied on, to whom I could submit it, and, perhaps, after all, it may be absolutely worthless.

With regard to that part of my provision which is derived from my unknown friend, it is of course conditional ; and as it is not a provision for a *poet*, but for a *candidate for orders*, I believe it is expected, and indeed it has been hinted as a thing advisable, that I should barter the muses for mathematics, and abstain from writing verses at least until I take my degree. If I find that all my time will be requisite, in order to *prepare* for the important office I am destined to fill, I shall certainly do my duty, however severely it may cost me : but if I find I may lawfully and conscientiously relax myself at intervals, with those delightful reveries which have hitherto formed the chief pleasure of my life, I shall, without scruple, indulge myself in them.

I know the pursuit of Truth is a much more important business than the exercise of the imagination, and amid all the quaintness and stiff method of the mathematicians, I can even discover a source of chaste and exalted pleasure. To their severe, but salutary discipline, I must now "subdue the vivid shapings of my youth," and though I shall cast many a fond lingering look to Fancy's more alluring paths, yet I shall be repaid by the anticipation

* *Time* is probably the poem alluded to.

of days, when I may enjoy the sweet satisfaction of being useful, in no ordinary degree, to my fellow-mortals.

* * *

TO THE REV. MR. S * * *

Winterringham, ———, 1801.

DEAR SIR,

IN consequence of your letter of the 8th August last, I took the liberty of writing to Mr. Atkinson, requesting his advice and directions, as you signified your wish that I should. I received, in answer, the letter which I have copied *first* on the other side. Since I had myself written to Mr. Atkinson, stating, that in pursuance of your advice, I declined the assistance, for the offer of which I was indebted to the Society; and as I also understood you had written to the same effect, I did not exactly understand the purport of this letter. Mr. Dashwood was of opinion, that I had no time to lose; and at the recommendation of the Rev. Mr. Cocker, of Bunney, near Nottingham, he procured me a tutor in the Rev. L. Grainger, of Winterringham, Lincolnshire, who was once an usher in Mr. Joseph Milner's school at Hull.

With this gentleman I have now been three weeks. I have this evening received from Mr. Atkinson the letter which is *last* copied on the other side; and, unless the steps Mr. A. has taken are in consequence of some arrangement between him and you, and of which I am ignorant, I am at a loss to account for the intelligence it contains. I take it for granted, however, that things remain in their former train, and that a misunderstanding has arisen from the want of sufficient explicitness in my letters.

I feel particularly uneasy with regard to this apparent misunderstanding. As Mr. Atkinson, for

whose friendly offices I am greatly indebted, may think I am making an unhandsome return for the trouble he has taken on my behalf; and the Society may, with seeming justice, be displeased at my taking up their time and attention to no purpose, I am anxious to remove any ill impression which may be made in the minds of these gentlemen; and if I might hope that you would take the trouble of making the necessary explanations to Mr. Atkinson, I should be happy in the confidence, that all has been done which is necessary to clear up the mistake.

* * * *

TO MR. SERGEANT ROUGH.

Nottingham, 21st July, 1801

DEAR SIR,

* * * *

I THINK *Mr Moore's* love-poems are infamous, because they subvert the first great object of poetry — the encouragement of the virtuous and the noble, and metamorphose nutritious aliment into poison. I think the muses are degraded when they are made the handmaids of sensuality, and the birds of a brothel.

Perhaps it may be the opinion of a young man, but I think too, the old system of heroic attachment, with all its attendant notions of honour and spotlessness, was, in the end, calculated to promote the interests of the human race, for though it produced a temporary alienation of mind, perhaps bordering on insanity, yet with the very extravagance and madness of the sentiments, there were woven certain imperious principles of virtue and generosity, which would probably remain after time had evaporated the heat of passion, and sobered the luxuriance of a romantic imagination. I think, therefore, a man of song is rendering the community a service when

he displays the ardour of manly affection in a pleasing light; but certainly we need no incentives to the irregular gratification of our appetites; and I should think it a proper punishment for the poet who holds forth the allurements of illicit pleasures in amiable and seductive colours, should his wife, his sister, or his child, fall a victim to the licentiousness he has been instrumental in diffusing.

* * * *

TO MR. B. MADDOCK.

Winterringham, August 5d, 1801.

MY DEAR BEN,

I AM all anxiety to learn the issue of your proposal to your father. Surely it will proceed; surely a plan laid out with such fair prospects of happiness to you, as well as me, will not be frustrated. Write to me the moment you have any information on the subject.

I think we shall be happy together at Cambridge; and in the ardent pursuit of Christian knowledge, and *Christian* virtue, we shall be doubly united. We were before friends; now, I hope, likely to be still more emphatically so. But I must not anticipate.

I left Nottingham without seeing my brother Neville, who arrived there two days after me. This is a circumstance which I much regret; but I hope he will come this way when he goes, according to his intention, to a watering place. Neville has been a good brother to me, and there are not many things which would give me more pleasure than, after so long a separation, to see him again. I dare not hope that I shall meet you and him together, in October at Nottingham.

My days flow on here in an even tenor. They are, indeed, studious days, for my studies seem to mul-

tiplly on my hands, and I am so much occupied with them, that I am becoming a mere bookworm, running over the rules of Greek versification in my walks, instead of expatiating on the beauties of the surrounding scenery. Winteringham is, indeed, now a delightful place: the trees are in full verdure, the crops are browning the fields, and my former walks are become dry under foot, which I have never known them to be before. The opening vista, from our church-yard over the Humber, to the hills, and receding vales of Yorkshire, assumes a thousand new aspects. I sometimes watch it at evening, when the sun is just gilding the summits of the hills, and the lowlands are beginning to take a browner hue. The showers partially falling in the distance, while all is serene above me; the swelling sail rapidly falling down the river, and, not least of all, the villages, woods, and villas on the opposite bank, sometimes render this scene quite enchanting to me; and it is no contemptible relaxation, after a man has been puzzling his brains over the intricacies of Greek choruses all the day, to come out and unbend his mind with careless thought and negligent fancies, while he refreshes his body with the fresh air of the country.

I wish you to have a taste of these pleasures with me; and if ever I should live to be blessed with a quiet parsonage, and that great object of my ambition, a garden, I have no doubt but we shall be, for some short intervals, at least, two quiet, contented bodies. These will be our relaxations; our *business* will be of a nobler kind. Let us vigilantly fortify ourselves against the exigencies of the serious appointment we are, with God's blessing, to fulfil; and if we go into the church prepared to do our duty, there is every reasonable prospect that our labours will be blessed, and that we shall be blessed in them. As your habits generally have been averse to what is called *close* application, it will be too much for your strength, as well as unadvisable in other points of view, to study very intensely, but regularly you may, and must read; and depend upon

it, a man will work more wonders by stated and constant application, than by unnatural and forced endeavours.

* * * *

TO MR. CHARLESWORTH.

Nottingham, 21st Aug. 1801.

MY DEAR C—,

* * * *

- You must know, then, in the first place, (to begin methodically,) that, as I have a year to spare between the time when I should take my degree (were I to go to college now), and the period when I should be old enough to be ordained, it has been thought, that were I to delay going to Cambridge another twelve months, it would not retard any of my plans; at the same time that it would provide me with much better means of cutting a figure. Almond stands in *codem prædicamentis*, (this is logical Latin,) so we have agreed to go and study together under some able classic, and then to take all the University honours by storm.

I am advised to make Scotland the seat of my preparatory labours, not only on account of its being a learned soil, but on account of the cheap rate at which I may there live, and be taught. The largest sum I can afford to give for a year's board and tuition being 40*l*. I believe, it will be worth a man's while in Scotland, to take me and my friend for 80*l*., and the only difficulty is, in finding a respectable man, and well-grounded classic, who will undertake the important task.

Almond conceives that your good father is the surest source to obtain this information from, and we may, perhaps, trouble him to give us some intelligence, or directions to guide our applications, through your hands.

* * . * *

TO MR. B. MADDOCK.

Nottingham, September, 1801.

MY DEAR BEN,

By the time you will open this letter, we shall have parted, God only knows whether ever to meet again. The chances and casualties of human life are such as to render it always questionable whether three months may not separate us for ever from an absent friend.

* * * *

For my part, I shall feel a vacuum when you are gone, which will not easily be filled up. I shall miss my only intimate friend—the companion of my walks—the interrupter of my evening studies. I shall return, in a great measure, to my old solitary habits. I cannot associate with * * * nor yet with * * * has no place in my affection, though he has in my esteem. It was to you alone I looked as my adopted brother, and (although, for reasons you may hereafter learn, I have not made you my perfect confidant) my comforter. — *Heu mihi amice, Vale, longum Vale!* I hope you will sometimes think of me, and give me a portion in your prayers.

* * * *

Perhaps it may be that I am not formed for friendship, that I expect more than can ever be found. Time will tutor me; I am a singular being under a common outside: I am a profound dissembler of my inward feelings, and necessity has taught me the art. I am long before I can unbosom to a friend, yet, I think, I am sincere in my friendship. you must not attribute this to any suspiciousness of nature, but must consider that I lived seventeen years my own confidant, my own friend, full of projects and strange thoughts, and confiding them to no one. I am habitually reserved, and habitually cautious in letting it be seen that I hide any thing. Towards you I would fain conquer

these habits, and this is one step towards effecting the conquest.

I am not well, Ben, to-night, as my hand-writing and style will show ; I have rambled on, however, to some length ; my letter may serve to beguile a few moments on your way. I must say good bye to you, and may God bless you, and preserve you, and be your guide and director for ever ! Remember, he is always with you ; remember, that in him you have a comforter in every gloom. In your wakeful nights, when you have not me to talk to, his ear will be bent down on your pillow. What better bosom friend has a man than the merciful and benignant Father of all ? Happy, thrice happy, are you in the privilege of his grace and acceptance.

Dear Ben,
I am your true friend,
H. K WHITE

TO MR. K. SWANN.

High Pavement, October 4th, 1801.

DEAR KIRKE,

* * * *

For your kind and very valuable present, I know not how to thank you. The Archbishop * has long been one of my most favourite divines ; and a complete set of his sermons really "*sets me up.*" I hope I *am* able to appreciate the merits of such a collection, and I shall always value them apart from their merit, as a memento of friendship.

I hope that, when our correspondence begins, it will neither be lax nor uninteresting ; and that, on both sides, it may be productive of something more than mere amusement.

While we each strive to become wiser in those things wherein *true* wisdom is alone to be found, we may mutually contribute to each other's success,

by the communication of our thoughts and that we may both become proficient in that amiable philosophy which makes us happier by rendering us better, that philosophy which alone makes us wise unto salvation, is the prayer of,

DEAR KIRKE,
Your sincere friend,
HENRY KIRKE WHITE.

TO MR. JOHN CHARLESWORTH.

W. Interpiningham, ——— 1801.

* AMICE DILECTE,

PUDERET me infrequentiae nostrarum literarum, nisi hoc ex te pendere sentirem. Epistolis a te missas non prius accepi quam kalendis Decembris — res mihi acerba, nihilominus ad ferendum levior, dum me non tibi ex animo prorsus excidisse satis exploratum est.

Gavisus sum, è literis tuis, amico Roberto dicatis, cum audirem te operam et dedisse et daturum ad Græcam linguam etiamnum excolendam cum viro omni doctrinâ erudito — Satis scio te, illo duce, virum doctissimum et in optimarum artium studiis exquisitissimum futurum esse haud tamen his facultatibus contentum, sed altiora petentem, nempe salutem humani generis et sancta verbi divini arcanâ.

Vix jam, amice! recreor è morbo, à quo graviter ægrotavi: vix jam incipio membra languore confecta in diem apertam trahere. Tactus aridâ minù febris, spatiosas trivi noctes lacrymis et gemitû. Vidi, cum in conspectu mortis collocatus fuero, vidi omnia clariora facta, intellexi me non fidem Christi satis servasse, non, ut famulum Dei, fideliter vitam egisse. Ægritudo multa prius celata patefacit. Hoc ipso sensi et omnes, sint sane religiosi, sint boni,

* This letter is not to be considered as a specimen of Henry's Latin. It was written when he was only beginning those classical studies in which he afterwards made such progress.

idem sentient. Sed ego præcipuè causam habui cur me affligerim et summisso animo ad pedem crucis abjecerim. Imo vero et lacrymas copiose effudi et interdum consolatio Sancti Spiritus turbinem animi placavit. Utinam vestigium hujus periculi semper in animo retineam.

Non dubito quin tibi gratum erit audire de moribus et studiis nostris. Præceptor nobis, nomine Grainger, non è collegio educatus fuit, attamen doctrinâ haud mediocris est, pietate eximius. *Hypodidasculus* fuit in scholâ viri istius docti et admodum venerandi Josephi Milner, qui eum dilexit atque honoravit. Mores jucundi et faciles sunt, urbanitate ac lepore suaviter conditi, quanquam interdum in vultu tristis severitas inest. Erga bonos mansuetus, malis se durior gerit. — Æquè ferè est pastor diligens, vir egregius, et præceptor bonus. Cum isthoc legimus apud Græcos, Homerum et Demosthenem et Sanctas Scripturas, apud Latinos, Virgilium, Ciceronem et aliquando in ludo Terentium. Scribimus etiam Latinè, et constructionis et elegantiae gratiâ; nihilominus (hâc epistola teste) non opus est dicendi tibi quam paululum ego ipse proficio. In scribendo Latinè, præter consuetudinem in linguâ Anglicanâ, sum lentus, piger, ineptus. Verba stillant heu quam otiosè, et quum tandem visa sint quam inelegantia! Spero tamen usu atque animo diligenter adhibendo deinde Latinis sermonibus aliquam adipisci facilitatem, nunc ferè oportet me contentum esse cupire et laborare, paululum potiundo, magna moliendo.

Intelligis, procul dubio, nos vicum incolere Wint-
eringhamensis, ripis situm Humberi fluminis, sed
nondum forsan sentias locum esse agrestem, fluvius,
collibus, arvis, omni decore pervenustum. Domus
nostra Templo Dei adjacet; à tergo sunt dulces
horti et *terrenus agger* arboribus crebrè septus, quò
deambulare solemus. Circumcirca sunt rurales pagi
quibus sæpè cum otium agamus, post prandium
imus. Est villa, nomine Whittonia, ubi à celsâ rupe
videre potes flumen Trentii vasto Humbero influens,
et paulo altius Oosem flumen.

Infra sub opaca saxa fons est, cui potestas inest in lapidem materias alienas convertendi; ab altissimâ rupe labitur in litus, muschum, conchas et fragiliores ramos arborum in lapidem transmutans. In prospectu domûs montes Eboracenses surgunt trans Humberum siti, sylvis et villis stipati, nunc solis radius ridentes, nunc horridi nimbis ac procellis Vela navium ventis impleta ante fenestras satis longo intervallo prolabantur: dum suprâ in acre procelso greges anserum vastæ longo clamore volitant. Sæpe in animo revolvo verba ista Homeri:

"ὦς δ' ἔβριθον περικτητὴν ἱθιῖα τοῖ δ' ἔ
 Χρηστὴν ἧ γέγεννη, ἧ κούρω δουλχοδιῶν,
 "Λ' εἴω ἐν λυμῶνι Καῦστρίν αὐρὴ βίβρε
 Ἐθια καὶ ἱθια τοτάνται ἀγαλλόμενοι ττρυγισσι
 Κλαγγυτὸν προπαθίζέοντι, σμαξαγῆ δὲ τι θυμῶν,
 Ως τῶν ἱθιῖα τοῖ δ' ἔβριθον αὐτο καὶ κλισίῶν
 'Ες πιδίον προχίετο Σκαυαυῶν, &c.

* * * *

Vale. Dum vitales auras carpsam,

Tuus,

H. K. WHITE.

TO MR. K. SWANN.

Winteringham, 20th Oct 1801

DEAR KIRKE,

WE are safely arrived, and comfortably settled, in the parsonage of Winteringham. The house is most delightfully situated close by the church, at a distance from the village, and with delightful gardens behind, and the Humber before. The family is very agreeable, and the style in which we live is very superior. Our tutor is not only a learned man, but the best pastor, and most pleasing domestic man I ever met with. You will be glad to hear we are thus charmingly situated. I have reason to thank God for his goodness in leading me to so peaceful and happy a situation.

The year which now lies before me, I shall, with the blessing of God, if I am spared, employ in very

important pursuits ; and I trust that I shall come away not only a wiser but a better man. I have here nothing to interrupt me—no noise—no society to disturb, or avocations to call me off, and if I do not make considerable improvements, I do not know when I shall.

We have each our several duties to perform ; and though God has been pleased to place us in very different walks of life, yet we may mutually assist each other by counsel, by admonition, and by prayer. My calling is of a nature the most arduous and awful, I need every assistance from above, and from my companions in the flesh ; and no advice will ever be esteemed lightly by me which proceeds from a servant of God, however trifling or however ill expressed. If your immediate avocations be less momentous, and less connected with the world to come, your duty is not the less certain, or the more lightly to be attended to—you are placed in a situation wherein God expects from you according to your powers, as well as from me in mine : and there are various dark and occult temptations, of which you are little aware, but into which you may easily and imperceptibly fall, unless upheld by the arm of Almighty God. You stand in need, therefore, to exercise a constant reliance on the Holy Spirit, and its influences, and to watch narrowly your own heart, that it conceive no secret sin : for although your situation be not so dangerous, nor your duties so difficult, yet, as the masks which Satan assumes are various, you may still find cause for spiritual fear and sorrow, and occasion for trembling, lest you should not have exercised your talents in proportion to their extent. It is a valuable observation, that there is no resting-place in the spiritual progress—we must either go backward or forward, and when we are at a loss to know whether our motion be onward or retrograde, we may rest assured, that there is something wanting which must be supplied—some evil yet lurking in the heart, or some duty slightly performed.

You remembered I heard Mr. * *, on the night

previous to my departure ; I did not say much on his manner, but I thought it neat, and the sermon far better than I expected : but I must not be understood to approve altogether of Mr. * * 's preaching. I think, in particular, he has one great fault, that is *elegance* — he is not sufficiently *plain*. Remember we do not mount the pulpit to say fine things, or eloquent things : we have there to proclaim the good tidings of salvation to fallen man ; to point out the way of eternal life ; to exhort, to cheer, and to support the suffering sinner : these are the glorious topics upon which we have to enlarge — and will these permit the tricks of oratory, or the studied beauties of eloquence ? Shall truths and counsels like these be couched in terms which the poor and ignorant cannot comprehend ? — Let all eloquent preachers beware, lest they fill any man's ear with sounding words when they should be feeding his soul with the bread of everlasting life ! Let them fear, lest, instead of honouring God, they honour themselves ! If any man ascend the pulpit with the intention of uttering a *fine thing*, he is committing a deadly sin. Remember, however, that there is a medium, and that vulgarity and meanness are cautiously to be shunned ; but while we speak with propriety and chastity, we cannot be too familiar or too plain. I do not intend to apply these remarks to Mr. * * individually, but to the manner of preaching here alluded to. If his manner be such as I have here described, the observations will also fit — but, if it be otherwise, the remarks refer not to him, but to the style repro-
bated.

* * * *

I recommend to you, always before you begin to study, to pray to God to enlighten your understanding, and give you grace to behold all things through the medium of religion. This was always the practice in the old universities, and, I believe, is the only way to profit by learning. I can now only say a few words to you, since our regular hour of retiring fast approaches. I hope you are making

progress in spiritual things, proportionably to your opportunities, and that you are sedulously endeavouring, not only to secure your own acceptance, but to impart the light of truth to those around you who still remain in darkness.

Pray let me hear from you at your convenience, and my brother will forward the letter; and believe me,

My dear Kirke,
Your friend, and fellow-traveller in the
Tearful sojourn of life,
H. K. WHITE.

TO HIS MOTHER.

Warringtonham, Dec. 16th, 1801.

MY DEAR MOTHER,

SINCE I wrote to you last I have been rather ill, having caught cold, which brought on a slight fever. Thanks to excellent nursing, I am now pretty much recovered, and only want strength to be perfectly re-established. Mr Grainger is himself a very good physician; but when I grew worse, he deemed it necessary to send for a medical gentleman from Barton; so that, in addition to my illness, I expect an apothecary's bill. This, however, will not be a very long one, as Mr Grainger has chiefly supplied me with drugs. It is judged absolutely necessary that I should take wine, and that I should ride. It is with very great reluctance that I agree to incur these additional expenses, and I shall endeavour to cut them off as soon as possible. Mr. and Mrs Grainger have behaved like parents to me since I have been ill: four and five times in the night has Mr. G come to see me, and had I been at home, I could not have been treated with more tenderness and care. Mrs. Grainger has insisted on my drinking their wine, and was very angry when I made

scruples; but I cannot let them be at all this additional expense — in some way or other I must pay them, as the sum I now give, considering the mode in which we are accommodated, is very trifling. Mr Grainger does not keep a horse, so that I shall be obliged to hire one; but there will be no occasion for this for any length of time, as my strength seems to return as rapidly as it was rapidly reduced. Don't make yourself in the least uneasy about this, I pray, as I am quite recovered, and not at all apprehensive of any consequences. I have no cough, nor any symptom which might indicate an affection of the lungs. I read very little at present.

I thought it necessary to write to you on this subject now, as I feared you might have an exaggerated account from Mr. Almond's friends, and alarm yourself.

* * * *

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

Winterringham, Dec. 27, 1801.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

I HAVE been very much distressed at the receipt of your letter, accompanied with one from my mother, one from my sister, and from Mr. Dashwood, and Kirke Swann, all on the same subject; and greatly as I feel for all the kindness and affection which has prompted these remonstrances, I am quite harassed with the idea that you should not have taken my letter as a plain account of my illness, without any wish to hide from you that I had been ill somewhat seriously, but that I was indeed better.

I can now assure you, that I am perfectly recovered, and am as well as I have been for some time past. My sickness was merely a slight fever, rather of a nervous kind, brought on by a cold, and

soon yielded to the proper treatment. I do assure you, simply and plainly, that I am now as well as ever.

With regard to study, I do assure you that Mr. Grainger will not suffer us to study at all hard; our work at present is mere play. I am always in bed at ten o'clock, and take two walks in the day, besides riding, when the weather will permit.

Under these circumstances my dear brother may set his mind perfectly at ease. Even change of air sometimes occasions violent attacks, but they leave the patient better than they found him.

I still continue to drink wine, though I am convinced there is no necessity for it. My appetite is amazingly large—much larger than when at Nottingham.

I shall come to an arrangement with Mr. Grainger immediately, and I hope you will not write to him about it. If Mr. Eddy, the surgeon, thinks it at all necessary for me to do this constantly, I declare to you that I will; but remember, if I should form a habit of this now, it may be a disadvantage to me when possibly circumstances may render it inconvenient—as when I am at college.

My spirits are completely knocked up by the receipt of all the letters I have at one moment received. My mother got a gentleman to mention it to Mr. Dashwood, and still representing that my illness was occasioned by study—a thing than which nothing can be more remote from the truth, as I have, from conscientious motives, given up hard study until I shall find my health better.

I cannot write more, as I have the other letters to answer. I am going to write to Barton, expressly to get advantage of the post for this day, in order that you may no longer give yourself a moment's uneasiness, where there is in reality no occasion.

Give my affectionate love to James,

And believe me,

My dear Neville,

Your truly affectionate Brother,

H. K. WHITE.

One thing I had forgot—you mention my pecuniary matters—you make me blush when you do so. You may rest assured that I have no wants of that kind, nor am likely to have at present. Your brotherly love and anxiety towards me have sunk deep into my heart; and you may satisfy yourself with this, that whatever is necessary for my health shall not be spared, and that when I want the means of procuring these, I shall think it my duty to tell you so.

TO MR. K. SWANN.

Wintertingham, December, 1801

MY DEAR KIRKE,

THE affection of my friends cannot fail to give me pleasure, and I assure you, this testimony of yours has occasioned me no little satisfaction; but I must still assure you, that I am perfectly recovered, and as well as I ever felt myself in my life. My disorder was a slight fever of the nervous kind, brought on by a cold; and although I was for a time very ill, I hope the event, like all other seeming evils in the hand of Providence, will turn out for my advantage. I assure you, you would not despair of me *if you saw me eat*. I have already a good stock of appetite, and can hew my way through a piece of bread and cheese with considerable agility and effect. Seriously, I have from conscientious motives given up too intense study; and as the great end which I set before me is not the attainment of learning, but utility in the ministry of Christ, I shall take especial care not to let the pursuit of letters interfere with the prospect of ministerial usefulness.

With regard to your visit to these parts of the world, I will give you the same advice as I gave to my friend———, "*Let it be, till the summer months*" You cannot well conceive the bleak and uncomfortable state of the country here

at this season ; the plains are either under water, or so intersected with drains that walking in the lowlands is almost impracticable. Winteringham has now few charms, even for us, fond as we are of it. Glad as I should be to see you again, I should feel almost a pride in showing you the village in all its beauty, rather than at its greatest disadvantage.

* * * * *

TO HIS BROTHER JAMES.

Midway between Winteringham and Hull,
Jan. 11th, 1805.

DEAR JAMES,

You will not be surprised at the style of this letter, when I tell you it is written in the Winteringham Packet, on a heap of flour-bags, and surrounded by a drove of 14 pigs, who raise the most hideous roar every time the boat rolls. I write with a silver pen, and with a good deal of shaking, so you may expect very bad scribbling. I am now going to Hull, where I have a parcel to send to my mother, and I would not lose the opportunity of writing.

I am extremely glad that you are attentive to matters of such moment as are those of religion ; and I hope you do not relax in your seriousness, but continue to pray that God will enable you to walk in the paths of righteousness, which alone lead to peace. He alone, my dear James, is able to give you a heart to delight in his service, and to set at nought the temptations of the world. It may seem to you, in the first beginning of your Christian progress, that religion wears a very unpromising aspect, and that the gaieties of the world are indeed very delicious ; but I assure you, from what I have myself experienced, that the pleasures of piety are infinitely more exquisite than those of fashion and of sensual pursuits. It is true, they are not so violent, or so intoxicating, (for they con-

sist in one even tenor of mind, a lightness of heart, and sober cheerfulness, which none but those who have experienced can conceive,) but they leave no sting behind them; they give pleasure on reflection, and will soothe the mind in the distant prospect. And who can say this of the world, or of its enjoyments?

Even those who seem to enter with the most spirit into the riotous and gaudy diversions of the world, are often known to confess that there is no real satisfaction in them, that their gaiety is often forced, when their hearts are heavy; and that they envy those who have chosen the more humble but pleasant paths of religion and virtue.

I am not at all particular as to the place of worship you may attend, so as it be under a serious preacher, and so as you attend regularly. I should think it a very good exercise for you, if you were to get a blank paper-book, and were to write down in it any thing which may strike you in the sermons you hear on a Sunday, this would improve your style of writing, and teach you to think on what you hear. Pray endeavour to carry this plan into execution: I am sure you will find it worth the trouble. You attend the church now and then, I conclude; and if you do, I should wish to direct your attention to our admirable liturgy, and avoid, if possible, remarking what may seem absurd in the manner it is repeated.

I must not conceal from you that I am very sorry you do not attend some eminent minister in the church, such as Mr. Cecil, or Mr. Pratt, or Mr. Crompter, in preference to the meeting: since I am convinced a man runs less danger of being misled, or of building on false foundations, in the establishment, than out, and this too for plain reasons:—Dissenters are apt to think they are religious, *because they are dissenters*—"for," argue they, "if we had not a regard for religion, why should we leave the establishment at all? The very act of leaving it shows we have a regard for religion, because we manifest an aversion to its abuses."

Besides this, at the meeting-house you are not likely to hear plain and unwelcome truths so honestly told as in the church, where the minister is not so dependent on his flock, and the prayers are so properly selected, that you will meet with petitions calculated for all your wants, bodily and spiritual, without being left at the mercy of the minister to pray for what and in what manner he likes. Remember these are not offered as reasons why you should always attend the church, but to put you in mind that there are advantages there which you should avail yourself of, instead of making invidious comparisons between the two institutions.

* * * * *

TO MR. B. MADDOCK.

Winterringham, Jan. 31st, 1805.

DEAR BRN,

I HAVE long been convinced of the truth of what you say respecting the effects of close reading on a man's mind, in a religious point of view, and I am more and more convinced that literature is very rarely the source of satisfaction of mind to a Christian. I would wish you to steer clear of too abstract and subtle a mode of thinking and reasoning, and you will so be happier than your friend. A relish for books will be a sweet source of amusement, and a salutary relaxation to you throughout life; but let it not be more than a *relish*, if *you* value your own peace. I think, however, that you ought to strengthen your mind a little with logic, and for this purpose I would advise you to go through Euclid with sedulous and serious attention, and likewise to read Duncan through. You are too desultory a reader, and regard *amusement* too much; if you wish your reading in good earnest to *amuse* you when you are old, as well as now in your youth, you will take care to form a taste for substantial and sound authors, and will not be the less eager to

study a work because it requires a little labour to understand it.

After you have read Euclid, and amused yourself with Locke's sublime speculations, you will derive much pleasure from Butler's Analogy, without exception the most unanswerable demonstration of the folly of infidelity that the world ever saw.

Books like these will give you more strength of mind, and consistent firmness, than either you or I now possess: while, on the other hand, the effeminate *Panada* of Magazines, Tales, and the tribe of penny-catching pamphlets, of which desultory readers are so fond, only tend to enervate the mind, and incapacitate it for every species of manly exertion.

* * * * *

I continue to be better in health, although the weather is a great obstacle to my taking a proper proportion of exercise. I have had a trip to Hull of late, and saw the famous painter R—— there, with whom I had a good deal of talk. He is a pious man, and a great astronomer; but, in manners and appearance, a complete artist. I rather think he is inclined to Hutchinsonian principles, and entertains no great reverence for Sir Isaac Newton.

* * * * *

TO MR. B. MADDOCK.

Winterringham, 1st March, 1805.

MY DEAR REV,

* * * * *

I hope and trust that you have at length arrived at that happy temperament of disposition, that although you have much cause of sadness within, you are yet willing to be amused with the variegated scenes around you, and to join, when occasions present themselves, in innocent mirth. Thus, in the course of your peregrinations, occurrences must con-

tinually arise, which, to a mind willing to make the best of every thing, will afford amusement of the chastest kind. Men and manners are a never-failing source of wonder and surprise, as they present themselves in their various phases. We may very innocently laugh at the brogue of a Somerset peasant,—and I should think that person both cynical and surly, who could pass by a group of laughing children, without participating in their delight, and joining in their laugh. It is a truth most undeniable, and most melancholy, that there is too much in human life which extorts tears and groans, rather than smiles. This, however, is equally certain, that our giving way to unremitting sadness on these accounts, so far from ameliorating the condition of mortality, *only adds to the aggregate of human misery*, and throws a gloom over those moments when a ray of light is permitted to visit the dark valley of life, and the heart ought to be making the best of its fleeting happiness. Landscape, too, ought to be a source of delight to you; fine buildings, objects of nature, and a thousand things which it would be tedious to name. I should call the man, who could survey such things as these without being affected with pleasure, either a very weak-minded and foolish person, or one of no mind at all. To be always sad, and always pondering on internal griefs, is what I call utter selfishness: I would not give two-pence for a being who is locked up in his own sufferings, and whose heart cannot respond to the exhilarating cry of nature, or rejoice because he sees others rejoice. The loud and unanimous chirping of the birds on a fine sunny morning pleases me, because I see they are happy; and I should be very selfish did I not participate in their seeming joy. Do not, however, suppose that I mean to exclude a man's own sorrows from his thoughts, since that is an impossibility, and, were it possible, would be prejudicial to the human heart. I only mean that the whole mind is not to be incessantly engrossed with its cares, but with cheerful elasticity to bend itself

occasionally to circumstances, and give way without hesitation to pleasing emotions. To be pleased with little, is one of the greatest blessings.

Sadness is itself sometimes infinitely more pleasing than joy; but this sadness must be of the expansive and generous kind, rather referring to mankind at large, than the individual, and this is a feeling not incompatible with cheerfulness and a contented spirit. There is difficulty, however, in setting bounds to a pensive disposition, I have felt it, and I have felt that I am not always adequate to the task. I sailed from Hull to Barton the day before yesterday, on a rough and windy day, in a vessel filled with a marching regiment of soldiers; the band played finely, and I was enjoying the many pleasing emotions, which the water, sky, winds, and musical instruments excited, when my thoughts were suddenly called away to more melancholy subjects. A girl, genteelly dressed, and with a countenance which, for its loveliness, a painter might have copied for Hebe, with a loud laugh seized me by the great coat, and asked me to lend it her: she was one of those unhappy creatures who depend on the brutal and licentious for a bitter livelihood, and was now following in the train of one of the officers. I was greatly affected by her appearance and situation, and more so by that of another female who was with her, and who, with less beauty, had a wild sorrowfulness in her face, which showed she knew her situation. This incident, apparently trifling, induced a train of reflections, which occupied me fully during a walk of six or seven miles to our parsonage. At first I wished that I had fortune to erect an asylum for all the miserable and destitute:—and there was a soldier's wife with a wan and haggard face, and a little infant in her arms, whom I would also have wished to place in it:—I then grew out of humour with the world, because it was so unfeeling and so miserable, and because there was no cure for its miseries; and I wished for a lodging in the wilderness, where I might hear no more of wrongs, afflic-

tion, or vice: but, after all my speculations, I found there was a reason for these things in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that to those who sought it there was also a cure. So I banished my vain meditations, and, knowing that God's providence is better able to direct the affairs of men than our wisdom, I leave them in his hands.

* * * * *

TO HIS MOTHER.

Winterringham, 5th Feb. 1805.

DEAR MOTHER,

* * * * *

THE spectacles for my father are, I hope, such as will enable him to read with ease, *although they are not set in silver*. If they hurt him through stiffness, I think the better way will be to wear them with the *two end joints shut to*, and with a piece of riband to go round the back of the head, &c. The Romaine's Sermons, and the Cheap Tracts, are books which I thought might be useful. You may think I am not yet privileged to make presents, since they will in the end come out of your pocket; but I am not in want of cash at present, and have reason to believe, from my own calculations, I shall not have occasion to call upon you for what I know you can so ill spare. I was quite vexed afterwards that I did not send you all the volumes of the Cheap Repository, as the others, which are the *general tracts*, and such as are more entertaining, would have been well adapted to your library. When I next go to Hull, I purpose buying the remaining volumes; and when I next have occasion to send a parcel, you will receive them. The volume you have now got contains all the *Sunday* reading tracts, and on that account I send it separately. As I have many things to remind me of my sister Smith, I thought (though we neither of us need such mementos) that she would not be averse to receive

the sermons of the great and good, though in some respects singular, Romaine, at my hands, as what old-fashioned people would call *a token of a brother's love*, but what in more courtly phrase is denominated a *memento of affection*.

TO MR. SERGEANT ROUGH.

Warringtonham, 17th Feb. 1803.

MY DEAR SIR,

I BLISS when I look back to the date of your too-long unanswered letter, and were I not satisfied that the contents of my sheet of post must always be too unimportant to need apology, I should now make one.

The fine and spirited song (song in the noblest sense of the word) which you sent me, on the projected invasion, demands my best thanks. The fervid patriotism which animates it, would, I think, find an echo in every bosom in England, and I hope and trust the world has not been deprived of so appropriate an exhortation. I perceive, however, one thing, which is, that your fire has been cramped by the "crambo" of the rhyme, at all times a grievous shackle to poets, and yet capable of such sweet and expressive modulation, as makes us hug our chains, and exult in the hard servitude. My poor neglected muse has lain absolutely unnoticed by me for the last four months, during which period I have been digging in the mines of *Scapula* for Greek roots; and instead of drinking, with eager delight, the beauties of Virgil, have been cutting and drying his phrases for future use. The place where I live is on the banks of the Humber. here no *Sicilian* river, but rough with cold winds, and bordered with killing swamps. What with neglect, and what with the climate, so congenial to rural meditation, I fear my good Genius, who was wont to visit me with nightly visions "in woods and brakes, and by

the river's marge," is now dying of a sen ague; and I shall thus probably emerge from my retreat, not a hair-brained son of imagination, but a sedate black-lettered book-worm, with a head like an etymologicon magnum.

Forgive me this slippancy, in which I am not very apt to indulge, and let me offer my best wishes that it is not with your muse as with mine. Eloquence has always been thought akin to poetry: though her efforts are not so effectually perpetuated, she is not the less honoured, or her memory the less carefully preserved. Many very plausible hypotheses are contradicted by facts; yet I should imagine that the genius which prompted your "*Conspiracy*," would be no common basis on which to erect a superstructure of oratorical fame "*Est enim oratori finitimus Poëta, numeris adstrictior paulo, verborum autem licentiâ liberior, multis vero ornandi generibus socius, ac pene par,*" &c. You, no doubt, are well acquainted with this passage, in the 1st Dial. de Orat., so I shall not go on with it; but I encourage a hope, that I shall one day see a living proof of the truth of this position in *you*. Do not quite exclude me from a kind of fellow-feeling with you in your oratorical pursuits, for you know I must make myself a fit herald for the important message I am ordained to deliver; and I shall bestow some pains to this end. No inducement whatever should prevail on me to enter into orders, if I were not thoroughly convinced of the truth of the religion I profess, as contained in the New Testament; and I hope that whatever I know to be the truth, I shall not hesitate to proclaim, however much it may be disliked or despised. The discovery of Truth, it is notorious, ought to be the object of all true philosophy; and the attainment of this end must, to a philosopher, be the greatest of all possible blessings. If then a man be satisfied that he has arrived at the fountain-head of pure Truth, and yet, because the generality of men hold different sentiments, dares not avow it, but tacitly gives assent to *falsehood*, he withholds from men what, according to his prin-

ciple-, it is for their good to know — he prefers his *personal good* to Truth — and he proves that, whatever he may profess, he is not imbued with the spirit of *true philosophy*

I have some intention of becoming a candidate for Sir William Brown's medals this year, and if I should, it would be a great satisfaction to me to subject my attempts to so good a classic as I understand you to be. In the mean time, you will confer a real favour on me, if you will transcribe some of your Latin verses for me, as I am anxious to see the general character of modern Latin as it is received at Cambridge; and elegant verses always give me great pleasure, in whatever language I read them. Such I know yours will be

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In this remote corner of the world, where we have neither books nor booksellers, I am as ignorant of the affairs of the literary world as an inhabitant of Siberia. Sometimes the newspaper gives me some scanty hints: but, as I do not see a review, I cannot be said to hold converse with the *Republic*. Pray, is the voice of the Muses quite suspended in the clang of arms, or do they yet sing, though unheeded? *All* literary information will be to me quite new and interesting, but do not suppose I hope to intrude on your more valuable time with these things. When you shall have leisure, I hope to hear from you, and whatever you say, coming from you, it cannot fail to interest.

Believe me,

Dear Sir,

Very sincerely yours,

H. K. WHITE.

TO MR. K. SWANN.

Winteringham, 16th March, 1805.

DEAR KIRKE,

* * * *

I WAS affected by the death of young B—. He once called upon me with Mr. H—, when I was very ill, and on that occasion Mr. H— said to us both, “*Young men, I would have you both pack off to Lisbon, for you won’t last long if you stay here.*” Mr. H— was then about to set out for Hamburgh; and he told me afterwards that he never expected to see me again, for that he thought I was more desperately gone in consumption than B—. Yet you see how the good providence of God has spared me, and I am yet living, as I trust, to serve him with all my strength. Had I died then, I should have perished for ever; but I have now hope, through the Lord Jesus, that I shall see the day of death with joy, and possibly be the means of rescuing others from a similar situation. I certainly thought of the ministry at first with improper motives, and my views of Christianity were for a long time very obscure; but I have, I trust, gradually been growing out of darkness into light, and I feel a well-grounded hope, that God has sanctified my heart for great and valuable purposes. Woe be unto me if I frustrate his designs!

* * * *

TO * * *

Winteringham, March, 1805.

DEAR K.,

I GREATLY fear that you and W * * have not persevered in your laudable undertaking. The Latin language might be useful to both of you, and as

you have leisure, you might employ it advantageously to this purpose. I do assure you that it is not difficult to attain a sufficient knowledge of the language, to read easy authors, and that when you have done that, you may, with continued application, speedily read the Greek Testament. Tell me what are your determinations on this head. I must give you one piece of advice, however, which is, that neither languages, nor any other valuable attainments, are to be taken by storm. continued, sedulous, and unwearied application must be employed for the accomplishment of any valuable purpose. The stone, which force could not break, is worn through by the incessant dropping of water. Persons at our age ought to begin to acquire comprehensive views of things, and to embrace knowledge, at least in her outlines, with some degree of universality. For this end, all languages are useful, but not indispensable. Translations answer most of the purposes of a knowledge of the original, although they neither convey so much satisfaction, nor impart so much pleasure. To learn language for the sake of knowing it, without any view to the extension of our general knowledge, or other beneficial ends, is quite absurd, and I cannot, for a moment, suspect you of such a motive. I know your design is to enlarge the means of information, and to unlock stores which have hitherto been withheld from you. I exhort you to proceed; and I pray, that as you begin your studies with proper motives, you may be enabled to pursue them with an eye to the glory of God, and to the establishment of his truth.

We have it, all of us, in our power, in a greater or less degree, to be useful to our fellow pilgrims; and it is our duty, as well to employ the means we at present enjoy to this purpose, as to endeavour to enlarge those means. Now, I think, it is tolerably manifest, that the more extensive a man's knowledge under proper regulations be, the less likely is he to be deceived by delusive impostures, or misled by specious errors. Such a man, in religion,

is like a bulwark to the church, the detector of fallacies, and the opposer of dangerous innovations. Those who have a studious turn should, therefore, make a conscience of directing their pursuits to the proper end, in order that they may answer those purposes for which God intended them: yet we must guard most carefully against the pride of learning, and the pride of reason. If we once throw off our dependence on God, exult in our own wisdom, and rely on our own discernment, our knowledge will prove a snare and a destruction to us. A studious man stands in need of almost unceasing supplications for God's superintending and directing hand; he may so easily be deluded by proud logic and proud enquiries

* * * *

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

Winteringham, April, 1803.

DEAR NEVILLE,

* * * *

You wrote me a long sheet this last time, and I have every reason to be satisfied with it, yet I sometimes wish I could make you write closer and smaller. Since your mind must necessarily be now much taken up with other things, I dare not press my former enquiries on subjects of reading. When your leisure season comes, I shall be happy to hear from you on these topics.

It is a remark of an ancient philosophical poet (Horace), that every man thinks his neighbour's condition happier than his own; and, indeed, common experience shows, that we are too apt to entertain romantic notions of absent, and to think meanly of present things; to extol what we have had no experience of, and to be discontented with what we possess. The man of business sighs for the sweets of leisure; the person who, with a taste for reading, has few opportunities for it, thinks that

man's life the sum of bliss who has nothing to do but to study. Yet it often happens that the condition of the envier is happier than that of the envied. You have read Dr. Johnson's tale of the poor tallow-chandler, who, after sighing for the quiet of country life, at length scraped money enough to retire, but found his long-sought-for leisure so insupportable, that he made a voluntary offer to his successor to come up to town every Friday, and melt tallow for him gratis. It would be so with half the men of business, who sigh so earnestly for the sweets of retirement; and you may receive it as one of the maturest observations I have been able to make on human life, that there is no condition so happy as that of him who leads a life of full and constant employment. His amusements have a zest which men of pleasure would gladly undergo all his drudgery to experience and the regular succession of business, provided his situation be not too anxious, drives away from his brain those harassing speculations which are continually assaulting the man of leisure, and the man of reading. The studious man, though his pleasures are of the most refined species, finds cares and disturbing thoughts in study. To think much and deeply will soon make a man sad. His thoughts, ever on the wing, often carry him where he shudders to be even in imagination. He is like a man in sleep—sometimes his dreams are pleasing, but at others horror itself takes possession of his imagination, and this inequality of mind is almost inseparable from much meditation and mental exercise. From this cause it often happens, that lettered and philosophical men are peevish in their tempers, and austere in their manners. The inference I would draw from these remarks is generally this, that although every man carries about him the seeds of happiness or misery in his own bosom, yet it is a truth not liable to many exceptions, that men are more equally free from anxiety and care, in proportion as they recede from the more refined and mental, to the grosser and bodily employments and modes of life, but

that the happiest condition is placed in the middle, between the extremes of both. Thus a person with a moderate love of reading, and few opportunities of indulging it, would be inclined to envy one in my situation, because such a one has nothing to do but to read: but I could tell him that though my studious pleasures are more comprehensive than his, they are not more exquisite, and that an occasional banquet gives more delight than a continual feast. Reading should be dearer to you than to me, because I always read, and you but seldom.

Almond and I took a small boat on Monday, and set out for Hull, a distance of thirteen miles, as some compute it, though others make it less. We went very merrily with a good pair of oars until we came within four miles of Hull, when, owing to some hard working, we were quite exhausted; but as the tide was nearly down, and the shore soft, we could not get to any villages on the banks. At length we made Hull, and just arrived in time to be grounded in the middle of the harbour, without any possible means of getting ashore till the flux or flood. As we were half famished, I determined to wade ashore for provisions, and had the satisfaction of getting above the knees in mud almost every step I made. When I got ashore I recollected I had given Almond all my cash. This was a terrible dilemma—to return back was too laborious, and I expected the tide flowing every minute. At last I determined to go to the inn where we usually dine when we go to Hull, and try how much credit I possessed there, and I happily found no difficulty in procuring refreshments, which I carried off in triumph to the boat. Here new difficulties occurred; for the tide had flowed in considerably during my absence, although not sufficiently to move the boat, so that my wade was much worse back than it had been before. On our return, a most placid and calm day was converted into a cloudy one, and we had a brisk gale in our teeth. Knowing we were quite safe, we struck across from Hull to Barton; and when we were off Hazel Whelps, a place which is

always rough, we had some tremendous swells, which we weathered admirably, and (bating our getting on the wrong side of a bank, owing to the deceitful appearance of the coast), we had a prosperous voyage home, having rowed twenty-six miles in less than five hours

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TO MR. K. SWANN.

Winteringham, April 6th, 1805

MY DEAR KIRKE,

* * * * *

Not a complaint of the lukewarmness of your affections towards spiritual things is a very common one with Christians. We all feel it, and if it be attended with an earnest desire to acquit ourselves in this respect, and to recover our wonted fervour, it is a complaint indicative of our faithfulness. In cases of Christian experience, I submit my own opinion to any body's, and have too serious a distrust of it myself, to offer it as a rule or maxim of unquestionable authority, but I have found, and think, that the best remedy against lukewarmness, is an obstinate persisting in prayer, until our affections be moved, and a regular habit of going to religious duties with a prepared and meek heart, thinking more of obtaining communion with God, than of spending so many minutes in seeking it. Thus, when we pray, we must not kneel down with the idea that we are to spend so many minutes in supplication, and after the usual time has elapsed, go about our regular business, we must remind ourselves that we have an *object* in prayer, and that until that object be attained, that is, until we are satisfied that our Father hears us, we are not to conceive that our duty is performed, although we may be in the posture of prayer for an hour.

* * * * *

TO MR. R. WORTLEY.

Winterringham, 8th April, 1805.

MY DEAR SIR,

From the handwriting, I apprehend I am indebted to you for a "*Nottingham Journal*," which has brought intelligence most interesting to Almond and myself

The subscription for the chapel of ease is a very spirited one; and I think you are beginning with the most prosperous omens. I hope the undertaking will meet with yet *higher* protection than that of great men and rich, and that what is designed for the honour of God, will not be destitute of his all-powerful aid. Humanly speaking, there is only one impediment in your way, and that is the clause vesting the presentation in the hands of *trustees*. There is a bishop in the house who makes it a rule to oppose every bill of this kind, where the appointment of the minister is not placed in the hands of the vicar or rector of the parish. The chapel in which Mr. Atkinson preaches, at Leeds, was highly favoured, for the *second* presentation was vested in Mr. Atkinson and his representatives.

It may be, that as this clause is inserted with the express concurrence of the vicar, and as he and the patron have both of them votes, this objection may be in some measure obviated; but I should think the committee will rather choose that an amendment should be made, than the bill be thrown out in the Upper House. Mr. Grainger thinks this is a serious objection, and, indeed, he has had experience of its being so, for the chapel wherein Mr D * * * preaches at H * * *, is confined in the same manner, and for the same reasons, to the vicarage.

Mr. Dashwood's departure will, I doubt not, occasion you all much regret. I have no doubt his reasons for the step are very cogent. His place will not speedily be supplied; and, even if you are very fortunate, you will be obliged, in all probability, to

put up with a much less attractive, if not a less powerful preacher. His ministry has been blessed, as we can all testify, with uncommon success.

For my own part, slow as have been my advances in the wisdom of the Gospel, and small as in comparison they at this moment continue to be, I still owe to Mr. Dashwood more than the most unbounded gratitude can adequately express - nothing less than my all.

We enjoy in our present situation many opportunities of improvement, in the understanding of the principles of truth, and many incentives to the practice of Christian virtues. I hope that we at least *endeavour* to profit by them, and that our progress in the learning and wisdom of the world will, by the especial blessing of God, be attended with a correspondent increase of far more precious knowledge. It is an error into which all Christians are particularly subject to fall, that they already possess an adequate *understanding* of the divine truth, and that all that they have to do is to labour in producing a stricter conformity to its principles. whereas the fact is that we are often miserably deficient in this understanding, and should live in more decided agreement with the truth, if we knew better what it was. I have felt the effects of this myself; and I now find, that the lower opinion I have of my spiritual knowledge, the more enlarged views I entertain of the relations in which I stand to my God and Saviour.

When in Nottingham, I gave way too much to a practice, which prevails *there* in a shameful degree, of sitting in judgment on the attainments and experience of others. At this time, there was darkness enough in my own heart to have employed all my attention; and I think it may be generally asserted, that *those* who are the readiest to examine *others* are the most backward to examine *themselves*, that the more we feel inclined to scrutinise our brother Christians with severity, the less able are we to endure such a scrutiny ourselves. Before Christianity can arrive at any degree of perfection, we

must have *less tongue* and *more heart* work. If a man be faithful to his convictions, he will find too much to do at *home* to busy himself with what he has no opportunities of sufficiently knowing, — *his neighbour's heart*. We are to consider ourselves at all times as miserably ignorant; and it is only while we do consider ourselves as such, that we are in a disposition to learn of a *teacher* so averse to the pride of the human heart as Jesus Christ. I fear, (and I fear, because I have found it so in myself,) that a superficial and too trifling religion has prevailed too much in Nottingham, *though with many and shining exceptions*; and I hope that the time will soon come, when, with equal zeal, there will be greater depth of experience, and greater diffidence in the assumption of the office of spiritual inquisitors. I, for one, have laid down my post of dictator, by the grace of God never to resume it, and I should think, and I have little doubt you will concur with me, that the authority you possess over the younger branches of our brotherhood there, would be well exercised in discountenancing, on every occasion, such a spirit as I have been speaking of. Those who feel the *most* generally talk the *least*: and it is one way of lessening that trembling hope and fearful love of a young convert, which operates such salutary effects, by suffering him to indulge in remarks on the unawakened or the weak Christian, as if he were already admitted, or sure of acceptance, and could pronounce the *Shibboleth* of the genuine church.

In this censorious and unbelieving age, it behoves us in particular to be circumspect; for how do we know but our indiscreetness may excite another prejudice in the minds of the unconverted, and throw another obstacle in the way of perishing sinners? As professors of the Gospel, we stand in a very important and arduous situation, since we know that our failures, errors, and absurdities will be laid to the charge of the principles we profess. Indeed, on reflecting on this subject, it seems to

me almost impossible to discharge our *relative* duties to the uttermost, since the slightest slip may give occasion to our enemies to despise the Gospel. Well might the apostle exclaim, "*Be ye circum-spect*;"—" *Be ye wily as serpents*" Deep thought on these subjects is the only means of seeing their full importance, and of enabling us to be on our guard so incessantly as they require. Forgive me for trespassing so long on your time.

* * * *

TO HIS MOTHER.

Winteringham, 12th April, 1805.

MY DEAR MOTHER,

* * * *

I HAVE constructed a planetarium, or *orrery*, of a very simple kind, which cannot fail to give even children an idea of the order and course of the heavenly bodies. I shall write a few plain and simple lectures upon it, with lessons to be got off by heart by the children; so that you will be able, without any difficulty, to teach them the rudiments of astronomy. The machine, simple as it may seem, is such that you cannot fail to understand the planetary system by it; and were it not that I cannot afford the additional expense, I could make it much more complete and interesting. You must not expect any thing striking in the instrument itself, as it only consists of an index-plate, with rods and balls — It will explain the situation of the planets, their courses, the motion of the earth and moon, the causes of the *seasons*, the different lengths of day and night, the reason of eclipses, transits, &c. When you have seen it, and read the explanatory lectures, you will be able to judge of its plainness, and if you find you understand it, you

may teach geography scholars its use. Should it fail in other points of view, it will be useful to Maria and Catharine.

* * * *

Remember to keep up the plan of family worship on Sundays with strictness until I come, and it will probably pave the way for still further improvements, which I may, perhaps, have an opportunity of making while I stay with you. Let Maria and Catharine be more particularly taught to regard Sunday as a day set apart from all worldly occupations. — Let them have every thing prepared for the Sabbath on the preceding day : and be carefully warned, on that day in particular, to avoid paying too great an attention to dress. I know how important habits like these will be to their future happiness even in this world, and I therefore press this with earnestness.

* * * *

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

Winterringham, 20th May, 1805

DEAR NEVILLE,

* * * *

My first business must be to thank you for the * * * *, which I received by Mr. K. Swann ; you must not suppose that I feel reluctance to lie under obligations to so affectionate a brother, when I say, that I have felt uneasy ever since on more accounts than one. I am convinced, in the first place, that you have little to spare ; and I fear, in the second, that I shall prove an hinderance to a measure which I know to be necessary for your health : I mean your going to some watering-place for the benefit of sea-bathing. I am aware of the nature of injuries received at the joints, especially the knee ; and I am sure nothing will strengthen your knee more for the present, and prevent the recurrence of disease in it for the future. I would have you, therefore, if

by any means you can be spared in London, go to one of the neighbouring coasts, and take sufficient time to recover your strength. You may pitch upon some pleasant place, where there will be sufficient company to amuse you, and not so much as to create bustle, and make a toil of reflection, and turn retirement into riot. Since you must be as sensible as I am, that this is necessary for your health, I shall feel assured, if you do not go, that I am the cause, a consideration I would gladly spare myself.

* * * *

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

Warringtonham, May, 1605.

MY DEAR NEVILLE,

YOUR opinion of Mr — meets mine; he is indeed altered, and his alteration is to be attributed to religion. You behold in him a faint picture of what the divine grace can do; and I could enumerate instances, where the marks are such as strike "conviction irresistible" of the verity of its operations. Had I it in my power to procure you all the riches and honours of the world at a wish, I should think I gave you infinitely *more* than them all by giving you religion. The blessings of human life are at best precarious, but this can never fail you, and is then most valuable when all other comforts fail. I should think it needless to enlarge on the value of religion, since the most depraved acknowledge it, and are often heard to sigh for the happiness of the pious; but there are obstacles in the way of a profession of religion which need a little explanation. Many young men, in particular, feel an inclination to join the more serious part of mankind, who, from an unacquaintance with the principles of the Bible, are so dejected with a view of the obstacles which present themselves, that they put off their reformation from day to day, until they grow hardened in insensibility, and confirmed in error.

All this arises, as I have said, from an ignorance of Scripture: there are no such impediments in the way of the profession of the Gospel as such persons imagine; all the difficulties they shudder at are in reality shadows. "We must begin with reforming our conduct," say they, "and then, perhaps, God may be pleased to accept us. We find it very hard to abstain from the least sinful indulgence now; how shall we be able to curb our appetites on all occasions, and join in the avocations of the religious and sober, without repining for what we now feel so very indispensable to our real or imaginary happiness?" To a person reasoning in this manner, I would simply explain how we stand with relation to God and another world. We are all sinners, even from the womb; we are intent ever on sinful objects, and every thought of our heart is evil. In this state we are justly liable to God's wrath and everlasting damnation, and in this state must every man naturally be, since we are born under the curse, and so destitute of good that we cannot of ourselves forsake sin, or pursue virtue. But God, of his great mercy though our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, has offered redemption to mankind, and has promised to afford them the capacity of following the *good*, and eschewing the *evil*, on the simple condition of faith in his Almighty Son.—We may be abandoned, we may be depraved and unprincipled, but God will still adhere to the letter of his promises; and when we turn to him, acknowledge our unworthiness, and, oppressed with the sense of our deplorable corruptions, cry out for salvation by the blood of the Redeemer alone, He will then unquestionably hear us—He will pardon our sins; confirm our faith; create anew our polluted natures; and, finally, by the pure emanations of the Holy Spirit, so dispose our hearts, and rectify our minds, that we shall serve him in true and perfect obedience, disturbed no more by the attacks of our spiritual enemy, at least in his most dangerous shape. Such being, then, the administration of God's counsels with regard to us, it is begin-

ning at the wrong end to endeavour to amend our lives before we devote ourselves to religion, since we cannot break off from our sins without the previous assistance of God's grace. — We must first, then, consider our own condition, and discover the extent of our own wickedness, and inability to do good, and then fly to the redemption of the cross as criminals, whose only hope of pardon is laid there. Let us strive to attain faith in Christ first, and all good works will follow in due place, every day will add to our stability and strengthen our pious resolutions, till we arrive at that sweet "*peace in believing,*" which has excited the raptures of the saints from the first ages of Christianity downwards. We are manifestly but poor, helpless, and blind creatures, exposed to much care and misery, and unconscious how much evil the morrow may have in store for us; but faith in Jesus Christ affords us what our nature most wants, — a basis on which we may repose ourselves, and all our cares and fears, with certainty and satisfaction. Trusting in him, we can look upon the dim future with hope and confidence; the worst evils of life become light before the rays of his consolation, and what, to another, would be the bottom of despair, is to the Christian the beginning of hope, and the opening of a better scene. None can comprehend the exquisite satisfaction attendant on Christian faith but those who have had some experience of it. The support it is in trouble, the full confidence it brings along with it of God's truth and mercy, the delightful food it affords to calm and serious meditation, and, above all, the sweet serenity it throws over our anticipations of death, are beyond any powers of man to describe. — Well might the King of Israel say, "Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace."

Who could suppose that men, in so wretched a condition as we are, could fail to lay hold of the relief held out by the Gospel upon such simple and easy conditions? — It is but "have confidence in your Maker, subdue your own proud self-dependence, and fall at the foot of the Saviour, in the spirit

of penitence and prayer, and you are admitted, by gradual steps, to the throne of mercy and grace." My dear Neville, conquer the reluctance you feel to think upon religion; devote a few sober hours on the Sabbath to the reading of the Scriptures: study the unaffected narratives of the four Evangelists; observe the agreement of men writing without any communication of their purpose, in far distant regions, and in different languages (for St. Matthew's Gospel was originally written in Hebrew); observe the admirable uniformity which exists between their representations of Jesus. They differ in the petty circumstances of things, but the *great whole* is the same. We see God visiting the earth, promulgating doctrines which the world had never any idea of before; laying the *foundation*, in a few ignorant fishermen, of a RELIGION which was to spread over the whole civilised world; and, finally, sealing his testament with his blood, and ransoming, by that sacrifice, the fallen race of man from the curse due to his disobedience. In the perusal of the Scripture you will find many occasions to check your own proud reason, and bring it into obedience to God: in the end, however, all these apparent difficulties will be cleared up,—scripture will explain scripture, and you will rejoice to behold an uniform consent run through the whole,—harmony rising out of apparent confusion, and all, at length, uniting to the full establishment of faith, and the complete glorification of God. Fear not, my dear Neville, to think on these subjects; they will, I know, afford you heart-felt satisfaction in the end, and they will be a pleasing relief to you in any vexations which business, or other concerns of life, may give you.

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

Nottingham, June, 1805.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

I wrote you a long letter from Winteringham some time ago, which I now apprehend you have never received, or, if you have, some more important concerns have occupied your time than writing to me on general subjects. Feeling, however, rather weary to-night, I have determined to send this sheet to you as a proof that, if I am not a *punctual*, I am certainly far from a ceremonious correspondent.

Our adventure on the Humber you should have learnt from K. Swann, who, with much minuteness, filled up three sides of a letter to his friend with the account. The matter was simply this. He, Almond, and myself, made an excursion about twelve or fourteen miles up the Humber, on our return ran aground, were left by the tide on a sand-bank, and were obliged to remain six hours in an open boat, exposed to a heavy rain, high wind, and piercing cold, until the tide rose, when two men brought a boat to our assistance. We got home about twelve o'clock at night. no evil consequences ensued, owing to our using every exertion we could think of to keep warmth in our bodies.

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

Nottingham, June, 1805.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

I do not know whether you are fond of history, but it is an useful and generally a pleasing study. Ancient history is important as it elucidates scripture, and that in such a degree that I am convinced no man can *at all* understand the Old Testament without it. Modern history is absolutely necessary for a man and a gentleman, as giving us the best in-

sight into the manners, policy, and character of nations. The outline of Ancient History is easily comprehended. We may without difficulty trace the origin of people in the Scriptures, and by the aid of the profane writers can make a continued narrative of the progress of empires. Herodotus, the most ancient profane historian, began to write just at the period when the Scripture ceases; and Homer, the most ancient writer among the Gentiles, whose writings are come down to us, lived about the time of Solomon; so that, as there would be no historical records of the first ages did we not possess the Bible, so by the help of the profane writers, we can make a continued history of man from the beginning.

History is mere confusion without the aid of Chronology and Geography. The former science is the most difficult to attain, but it is not necessary to know the precise year in which every event happened; it is sufficient to be acquainted with its relative situation, in comparison with *other* events. Ancient times, therefore, may be divided into *Six great Epochs*, comprising all the period from the Creation to the birth of Christ, which is 4004 years. *The Creation*, therefore, happened B C 4004. The Fall of Man, the Murder of Abel, the Translation of Enoch, mark this period. The next epoch is the *Deluge*, B. C 2318, Noah became by this event, in a manner, the *second* father of *all* men. He had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japhet, who became the heads of all the nations in three distinct quarters of the earth. *Shem* was the father of the Hebrews, and great part of the inhabitants of Asia; *Ham*, who was accursed for his indecent disrespect to his father, peopled Egypt and all Africa. He had two sons more particularly noted: Mizraim, who occupied Egypt, which is therefore called the *Land of Mizraim*; and Canaan, who was an accomplice in his father's wickedness, and subject to the same curse. He settled in that part of Asia which was afterwards called *Judea*, and had ten sons, who were *all* the fathers of nations. *Japhet* travelled

northwards; his posterity settled in Asia Minor, crossed the Hellespont, and in time ran over all Europe. He had a son, *Javan*, who was the father of Greece. This the profane historians mention among the ancient Greeks. Thus the whole of the then world was peopled by the three brothers and their posterity; but not immediately, for the inhabitants of the world lived together until the confusion of tongues; when they divided, but still according to family. It is worth while to consider where all this happened. Noah's ark settled on Mount Ararat, in Armenia, in Asia. The tower of Babel is supposed to have been the origin of Babylon, which afterwards became so great. On the plains of Babylon, therefore, by the river Euphrates, all mankind were assembled, and from thence scattered themselves in every direction. If you have any map of the world you will find these places, in that part of the world which lies near the *Lerant* and *Egypt*; and it will strike you with amazement when you consider how rapidly the human race spread themselves over such immense tracts, covering Africa in the posterity of *Ham*, Asia of *Shem*, and Europe of *Japhet*. During this period all men were under the common control of God, but as they began to grow idolatrous, God thought proper to choose a just man, *Abraham*, whose posterity should be his peculiar people, and to whom he should commit the custody of his laws, and the promise of the Messiah. This is the third great epoch, and is denominated "*The Call of Abraham*," which happened B. C. 1921 — In this period many great events are recorded: but we find *Ham's* descendants were become powerful kings in Egypt, and there were many rulers in Canaan. Isaac, *Abraham's* son, was the father of *Jacob*, who supplanted his brother *Esau*, by a blameable fraud, and whose twelve sons were the heads of the twelve tribes of Israel. *Joseph*, one of them, being sold into Egypt, becomes mighty, and at length transplants his father and brothers into Egypt, where they became a great people, and were heavily

oppressed. Moses rises up as their deliverer, leads them out of the land of bondage, and from Mount Sinai receives the first written revelation from God to man. This is the *fourth* great epoch, B. C. 1491, and it is called, "*The Epoch of Moses, or the written law*" Writing was then alone in the hands of the Jews, from whom the art passed to other nations, which is proved by the shapes of the letters, and by the universal tradition among the Greeks that Cadmus brought letters from Phœnicia, which name was applied by the Greeks to Judea as well as Phœnicia. The Israelites subdued the Canaanites, according to the curse denounced on them by Noah. The famous Egyptian king Sesostris, is supposed to have been the son of him who was drowned in the Red Sea by the hand of God. He roamed all over Asia, in search of conquests, and introduced many wise laws amongst the Egyptians. In his reign many colonies were sent out to various parts of the earth. Danaus, his brother, with a large body of men, settled in Greece; hence the Greeks are called *Danæes*. Troy was destroyed in 1184, B. C.; and Homer lived 100 years after. The Israelites were governed by *Judges*, whose actions are recorded in the book of that name, until David, whose son Solomon distinguishes the *fifth* epoch, viz. "*The building of the Temple*," B. C. 1012. Solomon's son, *Rehoboam*, by a piece of egregious folly, caused the revolt of ten of the twelve tribes, who never again united. Two of the tribes only, viz. Judah and Benjamin, adhered to Rehoboam: the rest made another king, *Jeroboam*, and hence arose the two separate kingdoms of Israel and Judah. The capital of Judah was Jerusalem—that of Israel, Samaria. The kings of Israel were, in general, bad men; the people were wicked, and, after many signal warnings, they were all dragged out of their country by Salmanaser, king of Assyria, whose capital was Babylon, and were never re-established. Salmanaser brought some eastern tribes into Samaria in their room, who, being at first infested with lions, sent to the king to tell him that they were thus

harassed, because they could not wor-ship *the god of the country* in the right manner, for such they superstitiously thought *Jehorah* to be. Whereupon he ordered some exile Levites to go up, and be their priests, who thus introduced a spurious kind of worship, wherein idols were served in conjunction with the true God. Hence, the Samaritans were detected by the Jews, who were wont to throw it in the teeth of Jesus, that he was a *Samaritan* : and hence the *woman of Samaria*, in the New Testament, wonders that Jesus, being a Jew, should talk with her. Henceforward, then, the nation of the Jews consists of Judah and Benjamin alone. This period contains about five hundred years. The Jews grew very wicked, and the Assyrian monarchy very powerful, — I should rather have called it the *Babylonian* monarchy; for, strictly speaking, the Assyrian fell with Nineveh its capital — but they were both of the same race. The prophets now foretold the approaching captivity, and Isaiah, one hundred years before the event, mentioned every particular of it, and foretold that, at the end of seventy years, Cyrus, then *not* in being, should restore them. Nebuchadnezzar at length destroys Jerusalem, as the prophets had unanimously declared he would, and takes away all the people to Babylon. But God's wrath was denounced against that proud city, and prophecy is again fulfilled. — Cyrus, the leader of the Persian army, overturns the Assyrian monarchy, and avenges the Jews. Daniel, who had lived in the courts of preceding princes, was in high favour with Cyrus. That great prince orders the re-building of Jerusalem, and the temple, and releases the Jews just seventy years after their capture. The temple, however, was not completed till several reigns afterwards. This is the *sixth* epoch, B. C. 536, — called the epoch of "*Cyrus, or the Return from Captivity*." The Jews were under the power of the Persian monarchy, until it was destroyed by Alexander the Great, who overran all Asia, B. C. 320. The captains of Alexander, seeing the field clear, divided his kingdom amongst them — Antipater had Greece ;

Seleucus, Syria, including Judea; and Ptolemy Lagus, Egypt. Antiochus Epiphanes, one of the successors of Seleucus, king of Syria, whose capital was Antioch, exercised great cruelty towards the Jews; but they were now again a warlike, enlightened, and powerful people. The *Maccabees* successfully held out against one of the mightiest kings of the world, and maintained, for a considerable time, their independence. At length the Grecian empire fell, and with it the kingdom of Syria received its death-blow. The Roman was rising up in its stead. They more than once took Jerusalem, and, at length, appointed a governor over it. Things were in this state;—the Romans masters of the whole world, and Greek the general language of almost all nations (not excepting the Jews), when “*the Day-spring from on high*” beamed. All things were prepared, *one language* had been gradually extended over the whole civilised world; learning and philosophy had opened the understandings of men for the reception of the truth;—when, *four thousand and four years* after the creation, the *blessed Messiah* made his appearance, and laid the foundation of that Gospel which soon disseminated itself over all civilised nations.

It is profitable to fix this division of the more ancient periods of history in the mind. * * * *

* * * *

In this period you may consider empire as having passed successively through *three* hands into a *fourth*. The Assyrian empire was the *first*. It began with Nimrod, who ruled the then world, and ceased when Cyrus took Babylon, and transferred the government into the hands of Persia. The Persian empire, which was the *second* great kingdom, fell finally with Artaxerxes-Mnemon, who was subdued by Alexander the Great. Here the *third*, or Grecian empire, strictly speaking, begins. It soon fell under the power of the Romans, who were the masters of the world in the time of Jesus Christ.

* * * *

TO MR. JOHN CHARLESWORTH.

Nottingham, 27th June, 1805.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

It is some time since I wrote to you, and still longer since I heard from you, but you are acquainted with my unceremonious disposition, and will, I hope, pardon me for obtruding an unbidden guest on your notice. I have a question to ask of you in the first place, and I shall then fill up my letter with all the familiarity of a man talking by your side, and saying any thing, rather than be accused of saying nothing. My leisure will scarcely permit me to write to you again while I am here, and I shall therefore make the best use of the present occasion.

* * * *

We have been slogging through Rollin's Ancient History, and some other historical books, as I believe, to no great purpose. Rollin is a valuable and truly pious writer, but so crammed and garnished with reflections, that you lose the thread of the story, while the poor man is prosing about the morality of it; when, too, after all, the moral is so obvious as not to need insisting upon. You may give my compliments to your good friends Galen, Hippocrates, and Paracelsus, and tell them I had much rather pay them my devours at a distance, than come into close contact with them or their cathartics. Medical Greek, and Medical Latin, would act as a sudorific upon any man, who should hear their tremendous technicals pronounced with the true *ore rotundo* of a Scotch physician.

And now, my dear Sir, we will cry a truce to flippancy — I have neither time nor inclination to indulge in it to excess. You and I have been some time asunder in the pursuit of our several studies: you to the lively and busy seat of gaiety, fashion, and folly; — I to the retired haunts of a secluded village, and the studious walls of a silent and ancient parsonage. At first sight one would think

that my lot had been most profitable, as undoubtedly it is most secure; but when we come to consider the present state of things in the capital, the boundless opportunities of spiritual improvement which offer themselves, and the very superior society which every serious man may there join with, the tables seem turned in your favour. I hope and trust this is really the case, and that, with philosophical strength of mind, you have turned an unregarding ear to the voice of folly, and continued fixed upon the serener and far more exquisite occupations of a religious life. I have been cultivating in retirement, by slow and imperceptible degrees, a closer communion with God; but you have been led, as it were, in triumph by the energetic discourses of the many good men whom you have had the opportunity of hearing, to heights of religious satisfaction, which I can at present only sigh for at a distance. I appeal to you whether the grace of God is not the source of exquisite enjoyments? What can be more delightful than that sweet and placid calm which it casts over one's mind; or than the tenderness it sheds abroad in our hearts, both with regard to God, and our poor fellow-labourers? Even worldly-minded men confess that this life is, at best, but a scene of anxiety, and disappointment, and distress. How absurd then, and inconsistent, must be their conduct, when, in spite of this so general and confirmed an experience, they neglect what can alone alleviate the sorrows of this life, and provide for the happiness of the next? How much more is he to be envied, who can exclaim with St. Paul, "*The world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.*" "*I have learnt, in whatever state I am, therewith to be content.*" "*The world passeth away and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever!*" There is, in truth, an indescribable satisfaction in the service of God: his grace imparts such composure in time of trouble, and such fortitude in the anticipation of it, at the same time that it increases our pleasures by making them innocent, that the Christian, viewed either as

militant in this troublesome scene, or as a traveller who is hastening, by a difficult but short journey, to a better country, is a most enviable and happy character. The man who lives without God in the world, on the other hand, has neither rest here, nor certainty or hope for the future. His reflections must at all times be dubious and dark, not to say distressing; and his most exquisite enjoyments must have a sting of fear and apprehension in them, which is felt when the gay hour is over, and its joys no more remembered. Many wicked and dissipated men sigh in secret for the state of the righteous, but they conceive there are insuperable obstacles in the way of religion, and that they must amend their lives before they can hope for acceptance, or even dare to seek acceptance with God. But what a miserable delusion is this! If this were truly the case, how awful would be the condition of the sinner! for we know that our hearts are so depraved, and so obstinately addicted to sin, that they cannot forsake it without some more than mortal power to cut asunder the bonds of innate corruption, and loosen the affections from this sinful bondage. I was talking a few days ago with a young surgeon, who is just returned from the East Indies, and was expostulating with him on his dissolute habits: "Sir," said he, "I know you are happy, and I would give worlds to be able to subdue my passions; but it is impossible, it never *can* be done: I have made resolution upon resolution, and the only effect has been that I have plunged deeper into vice than ever." What could be a stronger illustration of the Scripture truth, that man's heart is naturally corrupt, and desperately wicked? Since wickedness is misery, can we conceive that an all-good and benevolent God would have *originally* created man with such a disposition? It is sin which hath made the world a vale of tears. It is the power of the cross of Jesus Christ alone that can redeem us from our natural depravity.—Yes, my friend, "*We know on whom we have believed; and we are persuaded that he is able to keep that*

which we have committed unto him against the great day." When I occasionally reflect on the history of the times when the great Redeemer appeared, behold God preparing his way before him, uniting all the civilised world in one language (Greek), for the speedier disseminating of the blessed Gospel; and then, when I compare his precepts with those of the most famous of ancient sages, and meditate on his life, his manners, his sufferings, and cruel death, I am lost in wonder, love, and gratitude. Such a host of evidence attended him, as no power but that of the devil could withstand. His doctrines, compared with the morality of the then world, seem indeed to have dropped down from heaven. His meekness, his divine compassion and pity for, and forgiveness of, his bitterest enemies, convinces me that he was indeed the Word; that he was what he professed to be, God, in his Son, reconciling the world to himself. These thoughts open my eyes to my own wretched ingratitude and disregard of so merciful and compassionate a master; under such impressions, I could ardently long to be separated altogether from the affairs of this life, and live alone to my Redeemer. But, alas! this does not last long—the pleasing outside of the delusive world entices my heart away; beauty smiles me into a disgust of religion, and the fear of singularity frowns me into the concealment of it. How artfully does the arch-deceiver insinuate himself into our hearts! He tells us, that there is a deal of unnecessary moroseness in religion, a deal too many humiliating conditions in the Gospel, and many ignorant absurdities in its professors; while, on the other hand, the polite world is so cheerful and pleasing, so full of harmless gaiety and refined elegance, that we cannot but love it. This is an insidious species of reasoning. Could we but see things in their true colours, were *but the false varnish off*, the society of the Gospel would seem an assembly of *angels*, and that of the world a congregation of devils: but it is the best way not to reason with the tempter. I have a talisman, which

at once puts to flight all his arguments; it is the name of my Saviour, and against that the gates of hell *shall not prevail*. That is my anchor and my confidence; I can go with that to the bed of death, and lift up the eyes of the dying and despairing wretch to the great Intercessor; I can go with this into the society of the cheerful, and come away with lightness of heart, and entertainment of spirit. In every circumstance of life I can join with Job, who, above fourteen hundred years before Jesus Christ, exclaims, in the fervour of holy anticipation, "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God."

The power of the Gospel was never more strongly illustrated than in the late mission to Greenland. These poor and unlettered tribes, who inhabit nearly the extreme verge of animal existence, heard the discourses of the Danish missionaries on the being of a God with stupid unconcern, expressed their assent to every thing that was proposed to them, and then hoped to extort some present for their complacency. For ten years did a very learned and pious man labour among them without the conversion of a single soul. He thought that he must prove to them the existence of a God, and the original stain of our natures, before he could preach the peculiar doctrines of the Gospel, and he could never get over this first step; for they either could not understand it, or would not, and when no presents were to be had, turned away in disgust. At length he saw his error, and the plan of operations was altered. Jesus Christ was preached in simplicity, without any preparation. The Greenlanders seemed thoughtful, amazed, and confounded; their eyes were opened to their depraved and lost state. The Gospel was received everywhere with ardent attention. The flame spread like wildfire over the icy wastes of Greenland; numbers came from the remotest recesses of the Northern Ocean to hear the word of life; and the greater part of the popu-

lation of that extensive country has in time been baptised in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

I have now filled my sheet. — Pardon my prolixity, and believe me, my prayers are offered up, frequently, for your continuance of the path you have chosen. For myself, I need *your* prayers. — May we be a mutual assistance to each other, and to all our fellow-labourers in the Lord Jesus.

Believe me

Your sincere friend,

H. K. WHITE.

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

Nottingham, June, 1805.

DEAR NEVILLE,

I HAD unfortunately not provided myself with verses for the Countess of Derby's copy of my little volume; and I have been invoking the muses ever since two o'clock *this morning*, with such bad success, as I have never before experienced on a similar occasion. On the other side you have the product, which must press.

* * * *

TO THE

RIGHT HON. THE COUNTESS OF DERBY.

In the dark coverts of the forest shade,
By scathed oaks, and haunted streamlets laid,
What time the moon uprose her clouds among,
The muse, unheeded, pour'd her lonely song
Unheard she sung, save when to Fancy's eye —
Pale Vesper, stooping from the spangled sky,
Would listen, silent, — or with distant swell
Sequester'd Echo answer'd from her cell. —
When shrinking timid from the obtrusive gaze,
She first explored the world's observant maze;
Who smiled benignant on her artless way?
Who open'd first the Patron's fostering ray?

Who bade her fears, her throbbing tremours flee
 Who, thrice revered Derby! — who but thee?
 O! that for thee, her strains might boast the power
 To soothe the tedium of one weary hour;
 To bid the gloom on *mourning's* * brow retire,
 Or wake to energy one slumbering fire. —
 Might they one transitory smile excite,
 Or raise one trivial image of delight;
 Then, though the critic with contemptuous pride
 Should the faint murmurs of her lyre deride,
 Still would she boast her guerdon passing great,
 Content that Derby owns her lays are sweet.

Nottingham, June 15th, 1803

TO MR. JOHN CHARLESWORTH

Nottingham, 6th July, 1803

DEAR CHARLESWORTH,

* * * *

I beg you will admire the elegance of texture and shape of the sheet on which I have the honour to write to you, and beware lest, in drawing your conclusions, you conceive that I am turned exciseman, for I assure you I write altogether in character, — a poor Cambridge scholar, with a patrimony of a few old books, an inkhorn, and some sundry quires of paper, manufactured as the envelopes of pounds of tea, but converted into repositories of learning and taste.

The classics are certainly in disrepute. The ladies have no more reverence for Greek and Latin than they have for an old peruke, or the ruffles of Queen Anne. I verily believe that they would hear Homer's Greek without evidencing one mark of terror and awe, even though spouted by an University orator, or a Westminster Stentor *O tempora! O mores!* the rural elegance of the twanging *French horn*, and the vile squeak of the *Italian fiddle*, are more preferred than all the energy and all the

* The Countess's mother was recently dead.

sublimity of all the Greek and Roman orators, historians, poets, and philosophers, put together. Now, Sir, as a classic, I cannot bear to have the honourable fame of the ancients thus despised and condemned; and therefore I have a controversy with all the beaux and belles, Frenchmen and Italians. When they tell me that I walk by rule and compass, that I balance my body with strict regard to the centre of gravity, and that I have more Greek in my pate than grace in my limbs, I can bear it all in sullen silence; for you know it must be a libel, since I am no mathematician, and therefore cannot have learned to walk all by system. As for grace, I do believe, since I read Xenophon, I am become a very elegant man, and in due time shall be able to spout Pindar, dancing in due gradation the advancing, retrograde, and medium steps, according to the regular progress of the strophe, antistrophe, and epode. You and I will be very fashionable men, after the manner of the Greeks: we will institute an orchestra for the exercise of the *ars saltandi*, and will recline at our meals on the legitimate Trichinium of the ancients, — only banish all modern beaux and belles, to whom I am a professed and declared enemy.

So much for flippancy —

Vale! S. R. V. B. E. E. Q. V.

H. K. WHITE.

TO MR. SERGEANT ROUGH.

Brigg, near Winteringham, July, 1805.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE just missed you at Lincoln, where I had some expectations of seeing you, and had not circumstances prevented, I had certainly waited there till to-morrow morning for that purpose. This letter, which I wrote at Brigg, I shall convey to you at Kirton, by some person going to the session;

many of whom, I have no doubt, are to be found in this litigious little town

Your misdirected epistle, to my great sorrow, never reached my hands. As I was very anxious to get it, I made many enquiries at the post-offices round; but they were all in vain. I consider this as a real loss, and I hope you will regard me as still under the pressure of vexation, until I receive some substitute from your hands

Had I any certain expectation of hearing you address *the Court*, or *Jury sworn*, at Kirton, no circumstances should prevent me from being present: so do I long to mark the dawnings of that eloquence which will one day ring through every court in the Midland Circuit. I think the noise of * * *, the overbearing petulance of * * *, and the decent assurance of * * *, will readily yield to that pure, chaste, and manly eloquence, which I have no doubt you chiefly cultivate. It seems to me, who am certainly no very competent Judge, that there is an uniform *mode*, or *art*, of pleading in our courts, which is in itself faulty, and is, moreover, a bar to the higher excellencies. You know, before a barrister begins, in what manner he will treat the subject; you anticipate his *positiveness*, his complete confidence in the stability of his case, his contempt of his opponent, his voluble exaggeration, and the vehemence of his indignation. All these are as of course. It is no matter what sort of a face the business assume: if Mr ——— be all impetuosity, astonishment, and indignation on one side, we know he would not have been a whit less impetuous, less astonished, or less indignant on the other, had he happened to have been retained. It is true, this assurance of success, this contempt of an opponent, and dictatorial decision in speaking, are calculated to have effect on the minds of a jury; and if it be the business of a counsel to obtain his ends by *any* means, he is right to adopt them; but the misfortune is, that all these things are mechanical, and as much in the power of the opposite counsel as in your own; so that it is not so much who argues

best, as who speaks last, loudest, and longest. True eloquence, on the other hand, is confident only where there is real ground for confidence, trusts more to reason and facts than to imposing declamation, and seeks rather to convince than dazzle. The obstreperous rant of a pleader may, for a while, intimidate a jury; but plain and manly argument, delivered in a candid and ingenuous manner, will more effectually work upon their understandings, and will make an impression on which the froth of declamation will be lost. I think a man who would plead in this manner, would gain the confidence of a jury, and would find the avenues of their hearts much more open, than a man of more assurance, who, by too much confidence where there is much doubt, and too much vehemence where there is greater need of coolness, puts his hearers continually in mind that he is pleading for hire. There seems to me so much beauty in truth, that I could wish our barristers would make a distinction between cases, in their opinion well or ill founded, embarking their whole heart and soul in the one, and contenting themselves with a 'perspicuous and forcible statement of their client's case in the other.

Pardon my rambling. The *cacochætes scribendi* can only be used by indulgence, and we have all a propensity to talk about things we do not understand.

* * * * *

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

Winterringham, August 20th, 1805.

DEAR NEVILLE,

* * * * *

I AM very sensible of all your affection, in your anxiety that I should not diminish my books; but I am by no means relieved from the anxiety which, on more accounts than one, I am under, as to my

present situation, so great a burthen to the family, when I ought to be a support. My father made some heavy complaints when I was at home; and though I am induced to believe that he is enough harassed to render it very excusable, yet I cannot but feel strongly the peculiarity of my situation; and, at my age, feel ashamed that I should add to his burthens. At present I have my hands completely tied behind me. When I get to college, I hope to have more opportunities of advantage, and, if I am fortunate, I shall probably relieve my father and mother from the weight which I now lay upon them. I wish you, if you read this letter to my mother, to omit this part.

* * * * *

TO CAPEL LOFFT, ESQ.

Winteringham, Sept. 10th, 1803

DEAR SIR,

Your letter has at length reached me at this place, where I have been for the last ten months employed in classical reading with Mr. Grainger. It gives me pleasure to hear of you and of poetry, for since I came here, I have not only been utterly shut out from all intercourse with the lettered world, but have totally laid aside the pen of inspiration. I have been actuated to this by a sense of duty, for I wish to prove that I have not coveted the ministerial office through the desire of learned leisure, but with an ardent wish to do my duty as a teacher of the truth. I should blush to present myself as a candidate for that office in an unqualified and unprepared state; and as I have placed my idea of the necessary qualifications very high, all the time between now and my taking my degree will be little enough for these purposes alone. I often, however, cast a look of fond regret to the darling occupations of my younger hours, and the tears rush into my eyes, as I fancy I

see the few wild flowers of poetic genius with which I have been ble-sed, withering with neglect. Poetry has been to me something more than amusement; it has been a cheering companion when I have had no other to fly to, and a delightful solace when consolation has been in some measure needful. I cannot, therefore, discard so old and faithful a friend without deep regret, especially when I reflect that, stung by my ingratitude, he may desert me for ever!

* * * * *

With regard to your intended publication, you do me too much honour by inserting my puerilities along with such good company as I know I shall meet there. I wish I could present you with some sonnets worthy of your work. I have looked back amongst my old papers, and find a few verses under that name, which were written between the time when "Clifton Grove" was sent to the press, and its final appearance. The looking over these papers has recalled a little of my old warmth, and I have scribbled some lines, which, as they owe their rise to your letter, I may fairly (if I have room) present to you. I cannot read the sonnets which I have found amongst my papers with pleasure, and therefore I shall not presume to show them to you. I shall anxiously expect the publication of your work.

I shall be in Cambridge next month, being admitted a Sizar at St. John's. Trinity would have suited my plans better, but the expenses of that college are greater.

With thanks for your kind remembrance of me, I remain,

Dear Sir,

Very respectfully and thankfully yours,

H. K. WHITE.

Yes, my stray steps have wander'd, wander'd far
From thee, and long, heart-soothing Poësy!
And many a flower, which in the passing time
My heart hath register'd, nipp'd by the chill
Of undeserv'd neglect, hath shrunk and died.

Heart-soothing Poësy !— Though thou hast ceased
To hover o'er the many-voiced strings
Of my long silent lyre, yet thou canst still
Call the warm tear from its thrice-hallow'd cell,
And with recalled images of bliss
Warm my reluctant heart. — Yes, I would throw,
Once more would throw, a quick and hurried hand
O'er the responding chords — It hath not ceased :
It cannot, will not cease ; the heavenly warmth
Plays round my heart, and mantles o'er my cheek ;
Still, though unbidden, plays. — Fair Poësy !
The summer and the spring, the wind and rain,
Sunshine and storm, with various interchange,
Have mark'd full many a day, and week, and month,
Since by dark wood, or hamlet far retired,
Spell-struck, with thee I loiter'd. — Sorceress !
I cannot burst thy bonds ! — It is but lift
Thy blue eyes to that deep-bespangled vault,
Wreath thy enchanted tresses round thine arm,
And mutter some obscure and charmed rhyme,
And I could follow thee, on thy night's work,
Up to the regions of thrice-chasten'd fire,
Or in the caverns of the ocean flood,
Thrid the light mazes of thy volant foot
Yet other duties call me, and mine ear
Must turn away from the high minstrelsy
Of thy soul-trancing harp, unwillingly
Must turn away ; there are severer strains,
(And surely they are sweet as ever smote
The ear of spirit, from this mortal coil
Released and disembodied,) there are strains,
Forbid to all, save those whom solemn thought,
Through the probation of revolving years,
And mighty converse with the spirit of truth,
Have purged and purified. — To these my soul
Aspireth ; and to this sublimer end
I gird myself, and climb the toilsome steep
With patient expectation. — Yea, sometimes
Foretaste of bliss rewards me ; and sometimes
Spirits unseen upon my footsteps wait,
And minister strange music, which doth seem
Now near, now distant, now on high, now low,

Then swelling from all sides, with bliss complete,
 And full fruition filling all the soul
 Surely such ministry, though rare, may soothe
 The steep ascent, and cheat the lassitude
 Of toil ; and but that my fond heart
 Reverts to day-dreams of the summer gone ;
 When by clear fountain, or embower'd brake,
 I lay a listless muser, prising, far
 Above all other lore, the poet's theme ;
 But for such recollections I could brace
 My stubborn spirit for the arduous path
 Of science unregretting ; eye afar
 Philosophy upon her steepest height,
 And with bold step, and resolute attempt,
 Pursue her to the innermost recess,
 Where throned in light she sits, the Queen of Truth.

These verses form nearly the only poetical effort of this year. Pardon their imperfections.

TO MR. ———.

Winteringham, 7th Sept. 1805.

DEAR SIR,

THE last time I had the pleasure of conversing with you, I intimated that I might probably address a letter to you ; be not therefore surprised when you see my hand and signature. I conclude your affairs stand in *statu quo* ; and though I am anxious to be informed as to the certainty of your prospects, and wish you were yourself at ease with regard to them, yet I think the suspense may not be altogether useless, as it will teach you a lesson of patience, will give you a better opportunity of proving your steadfastness, and of manifesting your industry and firmness in your studies, even while you are dubious whether they will be to any purpose.

If you are sincere, and really serious in your wishes to become a minister of Christ, and if you are convinced it is God's will you should enter that

sacred office, you will from this time forward, until you enter orders, live a life of constant, resolute, and confirmed study. You cannot, *dare not*, offer yourself as a candidate for the priesthood under the consciousness of mental unsuitness, arising from indolence and volatility of disposition; and remember, that indolence and *shiftiness* are not constitutional evils, but are such as every man has it in his power to cure. If you ardently long to become a public helper in the vineyard of Jesus Christ, you must think *that office* worth labouring for; and he who does not think it worth labouring for, is not worthy to have it. Although, in the early ages of the Christian church, God administered more immediately to the wants of his preachers, so that the abundance of heavenly gifts in a measure compensated for the absence of external qualifications; yet, even in those ages, St. Paul exhorts Timothy to "*give attention to reading*;" and in the Old Testament we read, that there was a *school* of the prophets; not that we must suppose prophecy a communicable art, but in these academies young men were instructed in letters and metrical composition, in order that they might be fitted for the duties of prophets whenever it should please God to call them. We may learn, too, that God peculiarly selected his messengers from these schools, for *Amos* mentions it as a matter of wonder that he had been called, although neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet (that is, professionally). In the present day more extraneous learning is necessary to a clergyman than at any preceding period, on account of the advanced and enlightened state of society in general; but this may very well be dispensed with; only let a minister be fully prepared in matters immediately relating to his office. In order to this, his attainments may soon be enumerated, and with regular application easily acquired. He should know the Latin tolerably; he should be able to read the Greek Testament critically; and, above all, he should know how to regulate his own actions and thoughts with propriety and seriousness; an art

only to be learned by much sober and settled thought, joined to constant prayer and humble trust in God. These are objects for which you have time enough, though not *more* than enough. You have room for every duty, but none for negligence, procrastination, or unsteadiness. Excuse my plainness, but I think your situation critical; and if, as I have my fears, you are yet trifling, I do solemnly assure you, that I consider your trifling as *criminal*. To leave talents like yours uncultivated, through an aversion to application, is a gross abuse of God's blessing, and an insult to his goodness. I conceive the fact to be indubitable, that you *may* prepare yourself fully and completely for the ministry within the usual time, *if you choose*; and it remains with you to determine whether or not you will sacrifice your own ease, and your own evil habits, to the ministry of God. I make full allowance for your present avocations; but I appeal to your conscience, whether there is not *time* left for study, and whether *that* time is not often sacrificed to trifling engagements, to a puerile aversion to reading, to temporary fatigue, or to absolute idleness. I think I have discernment enough to know where the *cause* of all these evils lie; and, probably, it might be beneficial to direct you to the cause, in order to your correcting them. I think, then, you are liable to great looseness, or what may be called dissipation of thought; that you too readily follow the impulse of the moment, and are easy in your assent to every fresh proposition, because you are averse to the labour of enquiry and the fatigue of judgment. From hence it arises, that you cannot act upon principles to which you readily agree and most cordially assent; because you receive them too quickly, without sufficient consideration of their nature and consequences. What stronger mark of imbecility can a Christian give, than to acknowledge the utility and necessity of certain rules and counsels, and to confess the evils he suffers, in consequence of his disregard of them, and yet be unable to act upon them and regulate his habits by them? The man

who cannot bring himself to think deeply on the truths he embraces,—the man who is convinced without examination, and yields his assent without the trouble of reflection, is not likely to be a very consistent character, and is very liable to be led into error. Such a man will never be happy in religious experience, for he will be continually offending against his own principles, through not having sufficiently entered into their extent and consequences, and he will always be fluctuating between opinion and practice; because, while open to every conviction, he can neither restrain the versatility of his own mind, nor clearly investigate and propound to himself the necessary agreements of belief and action.

You see clearly what you ought to do, and how you ought to act: the thing to be done is neither impracticable nor very unpleasant, and yet you, day after day, resolve that the morrow shall be better employed, without the power, when the hour of trial comes, of buckling down steadfastly to the work. The truth is, you have an unhappy facility in *putting off* whatever is unpleasant to you, and turning away from the business in hand to every phantom which the moment may suggest. You will agree to the truth of these observations; you will readily exclaim, "*It is so;*" "*These are my evils*" But, remember, to acknowledge weakness is *idle*, unless you have a cool and deliberate purpose of subduing them through the assistance of God's grace. I exhort you—I solemnly, my dear friend, exhort you, to consider, what are your views and purposes, and to think what you are about. The end you aim at is most important; let your preparation be in proportion. Surely it is no small thing to gather in the harvest of the Lord; and no one would refuse to undergo a few personal privations and inconveniences for it. I grant, to toil through the rudiments of languages, at your age, is irksome; but if it were necessary to be chained to the galleys for seven years in order to be admitted to so blessed a charge—who, that had a heart really affected, would hesitate to

undergo the probation? You should pray to God to give you more firmness and steadiness of mind; and at the same time should strive to fix and sober your own views, and correct the desultory habits of thinking, under which, it seems to me, you labour. If God have called you to the ministry, he will in all points of view smooth the way before you. Surely he *can* give you all knowledge; and can so enlarge your understanding, as that all the attainments of earthly wisdom shall be blessed unto you. Be of good cheer; if at your believing prayers God shall give you resolution to study, and bless you in it, the ruggedness of the road will soon disappear. The recollection of the end for which you labour will sweeten your most disgusting tasks, and cast a charm even over the uncouth rudiments of languages. There is, indeed, nothing so soothing, so exquisitely delightful, *as study*, when we feel we have God's blessing, and that we are labouring for His glory. No human gratification can equal this; no peace can equal that which a Christian enjoys, while he is daily and constantly pursuing the attainments of godly knowledge, and informing his mind with the things which pertain, either immediately or remotely, to eternal life. That this may be your lot, may God in his mercy grant! Think deeply! think seriously!

I am,
Your sincere friend, and fellow in Christ,
H. K. WHITE.

TO MR. B. MADDOCK.

St. John's, Oct. 18th, 1803.

MY DEAR BEN,

I AM at length finally settled in my rooms, and, according to my promise, I write to you to tell you so. I did not feel quite comfortable at first here; but I now begin to feel at home, and relish my silent and

thoughtful cup of tea more than ever. Amongst our various occupations, that of attending chapel is to me not the least irksome, for the service is read in general below the span of my auditory nerve; but when they chaunt I am quite charmed, for our organ is fine, and the voices are good. This is, however, only on high days and festivals, in which number the present day is to be reckoned (St. Luke's).

My mathematical studies do not agree with me, and you may satisfy yourself I shall never be a senior wrangler. Many men come up with knowledge enough for the highest honours, and how can a man be expected to keep up with them who starts without any previous fund? Our lectures begin on Monday, and then I shall know more of college difficulties.

My rooms are in the top story of the farthest court of St. John's (which you perhaps remember), near the cloisters. They are light, and tolerably pleasant; though, as there was no furniture in them, and I have not yet bought many necessary articles, they look very bare. Your phiz over the chimney-piece has been recognised by two of my fellow-students: the one recollected its likeness to Mr. Maddock of Magdalene; and the other said it was like a young man whom he had seen with Mr. Maddock, and whom he supposed to be his brother.

Of my new acquaintances, I have become intimate with a Mr. * * *, who, I hope, will be senior wrangler. He is a very serious and friendly man, and a man of no common *mathematical* talents. He lives in the same court with me. Besides him, I know of none whose friendship I should value; and *including* him, no one whose hand I would take in preference to that of my old friend, so long as I see my old friend with his old face. When you have learned to be other than what you are, I shall not regret that B. M. is no longer my friend, but that my former friend is now no more.

* * * * *

I walked through Magdalene the other day, and I could not help anticipating the time when I should

come to drink your tea, and swallow your bread and butter, within the sacred walls. You must know our college was originally a convent for Black Friars; and if a man of the reign of Henry the Sixth were to peep out of his grave, in the adjoining churchyard, and look into our portals, judging by our dress and appearance, he might deem us a convent of Black Friars still. Some of our brethren, it is true, would seem of very unsightly bulk; but many of them, with eyes sunk into their heads, from poring over the mathematics, might pass very well for the fasting and mortified shadows of penitent monks.

With regard to the expenses of our college, I can now speak decisively; and I can tell you that I shall be here an independent man. I am Senior Sizar, under very favourable circumstances, and, I believe, the profits of my situation will nearly equal the actual expenses of the college. But this is no rule for other colleges. I am on the *best side* (there are two divisions) of St. John's, and the expenses here are less than any where else in the university.

I have this week written some very elaborate verses for a college prize, and I have at length learned that I am not qualified for a competitor, not being a Lady Margaret's scholar: so that I have lost my labour.—Compared with the other men of this large college, I find I am a respectable classic, and if I had time to give to the languages, I think I should ultimately succeed in them in no small degree; but the fates forbid; mathematics I must read, and in mathematics I know I never shall excel. These are harassing reflections for a poor young man gaping for a fellowship!

If I chose I could find a good deal of religious society here, but I must not indulge myself with it too much. Mr. Simeon's preaching strikes me much.

* * * * *

I beg you will answer a thousand such questions as these without my asking them.

This is a letter of intelligence:—next shall be sentiment (or Gothic arch, for they are synonymous according to Mr. M.).

TO HIS MOTHER.

St. John's, October 26th, 1803

DEAR MOTHER,

* * * *

You seem to repose so little confidence in what I say with regard to my college expenses, that I am not encouraged to hope you will give me much credit for what I am about to say, namely, that had I no money at all, either from my friends or Mr Simeon, I could manage to live here. My situation is so very favourable, and the necessary expenses so very few, that I shall want very little more than will suffice for clothes and books. I have got the bills of Mr * *, a Sizar of this college, now before me, and from them, and his own account, I will give you a statement of what my college bills will amount to.

* * * *

Thus my college expenses will not be more than 12l. or 15l a year at the most. I shall not have any occasion for the whole sum I have a claim upon Mr. Simeon for; and if things go well, I shall be able to live without being dependent on any one. The Mr. * *, whose bills I have borrowed, has been at college three years. He came over from * *, with 10l. in his pocket, and has no friends, or any income or emolument whatever, except what he receives for his Sizarship; yet he does support himself, and that too very genteelly. It is only men's extravagance that makes college life so expensive. There are Sizars at St. John's who spend 150l a year; but they are gay, dissipated men, who choose to be Sizars in order that they may have more money to lavish on their pleasures. Our dinners and suppers cost us nothing; and if a man choose to eat milk breakfasts, and go without tea, he may live absolutely for nothing; for his college emoluments will cover the rest of his expenses. Tea is, indeed, almost superfluous, since we do not rise from dinner till half-past three, and the supper-bell rings a quarter before nine. Our

mode of living is not to be complained of, for the table is covered with all possible variety ; and on feast-days, which our fellows take care are pretty frequent, we have wine.

You will now, I trust, feel satisfied on this subject, and will no longer give yourself unnecessary uneasiness on my account.

* * * *

I was unfortunate enough to be put into unfurnished rooms, so that my furniture will cost me a little more than I expected ; I suppose about 15*l.* or perhaps not quite so much. I sleep on a hair mattress, which I find just as comfortable as a bed ; it only cost me 4*l.*, along with blankets, counterpane, and pillows, &c. I have three rooms, — a sitting-room, a bed-room, and a kind of scullery or pantry. My sitting-room is very light and pleasant, and, what does not often happen, the walls are in good case, having been lately stained green.

I must commission my sister to make me a pair of letter racks ; but they must not be fine, because my furniture is not very fine. — I think the old shape (or octagons, one upon another) is the neatest, and white the best colour. I wish Maria would paint vignettes in the squares, because then I should see how her drawing proceeds. You must know that these are not intended as mere matters of show, but are intended to answer some purpose, there are so many particular places to attend on particular days, that unless a man is very cautious, he has nothing else to do than to pay forfeits for non-attendance. A few cards, and a little rack, will be a short way of helping the memory.

I think I must get a supply of sugar from London ; for if I buy it here, it will cost me 1*s.* 6*d.* per pound, which is rather too much. I have got tea enough to last the term out.

* * * *

Although you may be quite easy on the subject of my future support, yet you must not form splendid ideas of my success at the university, for the lecturers all speak so low, and we sit at such a distance,

that I cannot hear a syllable. I have, therefore, no more advantage than if I were studying at home.

I beg we may have no more doubts and fears, at least on my score. I think I am now very near being off your hands; and, since my education at the university is quite secure, you need not entertain gloomy apprehensions for the future; my maintenance will, at all events, be decent and respectable: and you must not grieve yourself because I cannot be as rich as an alderman.

* * * *

Do not show this letter to *all comers*, nor leave it about, for people will have a very mean idea of university education, when they find it costs so little; but if they are saucy on the subject, tell them — I have a lord just under me.

* * * *

TO THE REV. JOHN DASHWOOD.

St. John's, Oct. 26th, 1803.

DEAR SIR,

It is now many months since I wrote to you, and I have not received any answer. I should not have troubled you with this letter, but that, considering how much I owe to you, I thought the rules and observances of strict etiquette might with moral propriety be dispensed with,

Suffer me, therefore, to tell you, that I am quietly and comfortably settled at St. John's, silently conforming myself to the habits of college life, and pursuing my studies with such moderation as I think necessary for my health. I feel very much at home, and tolerably happy; although the peculiar advantages of university education will in a great measure be lost to me, since there is not one of the lecturers whom I am able to hear.

My literary ambition is, I think, now fast subsiding, and a better emulation springing up in its room. I conceive that, considering the disadvan-

tages under which I labour, very little can be expected from me in the Senate House. I shall not, however, remit my exertions, but shall at least strive to acquit myself with credit, though I cannot hope for the more splendid honours

With regard to my college expenses, I have the pleasure to inform you, that my situation is so favourable that I shall be obliged, in strict rectitude, to waive the offers of many of my friends, I shall not even need the sum Mr. Simeon mentioned, after the first year; and it is not impossible that I may be able to live without any assistance at all. I confess I feel pleasure in the thought of this, not through any vain pride of independence, but because I shall then give a more unbiassed testimony to the Truth, than if I were *supposed* to be bound to it by any ties of obligation or gratitude. I shall always feel as much indebted for intended as for actually afforded assistance; and though I should never think a sense of thankfulness an oppressive burthen, yet I shall be happy to evince it, when, *in the eyes of the world*, the obligation to it has been discharged

* * * *

I hope you will, ere long, relieve me from the painful thought that I lie under your displeasure; and believe me,

Dear Sir,

Most sincerely and affectionately yours,

H. K. WHITE.

TO MR. CHARLESWORTH.

* * * *

Cum diutius à te frustra litteras expectâssem memet, in animum tuum revocare aut iterum otio obtrudere nolebam.

Penes te erat aut nobiscum denuo per litteras colloqui aut familiaritatem et necessitatem nostram

silentio dimittere Hoc te prætulisse jam diu putaveram, cum epistola tua mihi in manus venit.

* * * * *

Has litteras scribebam intra sanctos Sanctissimi Johannis Collegii muros, In celeberrimâ hæc nostrâ academiâ Cantabrigiæ

Hic tranquillitate denique litterarum propriâ, summâ cum voluptate conjunctâ, fruor. Hic omnes discendi vias, omnes scientiæ rationes indago et persequor • nescio quid tandem evasurus. Certe si parum proficio, mihi culpæ jure datum erit ; modo valetudo me sinat.

Haud tamen vereor, si verum dicere cogor, ut satis proficiam : quanquam infirmis auribus aliorum lecturas vix unquam audire queam In Mathematicis parum adhuc profeci • utpote qui perarduum certamen cum eruditissimis quibusque in veterum linguis et moribus versatis jamjam sum initurus.

His in studiis pro mea perbrevis sanè et tanquam hesternâ consuetudine haud mediocriter sum versatus

Latine minus eleganter scribere videor quam Græcè : neque vero eâdem voluptate scriptores Latinos lectito quam Græcos : cum autem omnem industriæ meæ vim Romanis litteris contulerim, haud dubito quin faciles mihi et propitias eas faciam.

Te etiam revocatum velim ad hæc elegantia deliciasque litterarum Quid enim accommodatius videri potest aut ad animum quotidianis curis laboribusque oppressum reficiendum et recreandum, aut ad mentem et facultates ingeni acueudas, quam exquisita et expolita summâque vi et acumine ingeni elaborata veterum scriptorum opera ?

* * * * *

TO HIS BROTHER JAMES.

St. John's, Nov. 1805

MY DEAR JAMES,

You do not know how anxious I am to hear how you go on in all things, and whether you still per-

sist in steadfastness and seriousness. I know, my dear lad, that your heart is too good to run into actual *vice*; yet I fear the example of gay and wicked persons may lead you to think lightly of religion, and then, who knows where it may end? Neville, however, will always be your director; and I trust you conceal none, even of your very thoughts, from him. Continue, James, to solicit the fatherly superintendence of your Maker, night and morning. I shall not fear for you, while I am assured you do this fervently, and not in a hurried or slovenly manner. With constant prayer, we have nothing to fear from the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil: God will bring us through it, and will save us in the midst of peril. If we consider the common condition of man's life, and the evils and misfortunes to which we are daily exposed, we have need to bless God every moment for sparing us, and to beg of him, that, when the day of misfortune comes, (and come it must, sooner or later, to all,) we may be prepared with Christian fortitude to endure the shock. What a treasure does the religious man possess in this, that when every thing else fails, he has God for his refuge; and can look to a world where he is sure, through Christ Jesus, that he will not be disappointed!

I do not much heed to what place of worship you may go, so as you are but a serious and regular attendant. Permit me, however, to explain the true nature of the question with regard to the church liturgy, in order that you may be the better able to judge.

You know, from the epistles of St Paul, that soon after the death of Jesus Christ, there were regular churches established in various places, as at Corinth, Galatia, Thessalonica, &c. &c. Now, we are not certain that they used forms of prayer at all in these churches, much more that any part of ours was used in their time; but it is certain, that in the year of our Lord 286 there was a general liturgy in use throughout all the churches of Christ. Now, if in that early time, when Christians were much more

like the Apostles than they are now, they used a form of prayer in the churches, it is fair to conclude that the practice was not unscriptural; besides, at this very time, St. John the Evangelist had not been dead above 100 years, and one of his disciples, though at a very great age, was actually living St. Chrysostom, who lived above 351 years after Christ, wrote some of our prayers, and the greater part of them have been in general use for a thousand years. About the year 286, about one thousand five hundred years ago, immense multitudes of savages, the Goths and Vandals, being enticed by the fertility of the Italian country, and the riches of its possessors, came down from Germany, Hungary, and all the northern parts of Europe, upon the Roman empire, then enfeebled with luxury, and endeavoured to gain possession of the south. They were at first repulsed, but as fast as they were defeated or slain, new hordes, allured by the accounts which their countrymen gave of its opulence and abundance, succeeded in their stead, till the forces of the Romans grew unequal to the contest, and gradually gave way to the invaders, who, wherever they came, reduced every thing to a state of barbarism. The Christians, about this time, were beginning to prevail in the Roman territories, and, under the Emperor Constantine, who was the first Christian king, were giving the blow to idolatry. But the savage intolerance of the invaders, who reduced the conquered to abject slavery, burned books wherever they found them, and even forbade the cultivation of learning, reduced them to the utmost distress. At this time they wrote and used in their churches all that part of the *Litany* which begins with the Lord's prayer, and ends with the prayer of St. Chrysostom. Thus you see how venerably ancient are many of our forms, and how little they merit that contempt which ignorant people pour upon them. Very holy men (men now, we have every reason to believe, in heaven) composed them, and they have been used from age to age ever since, in our churches, with but few alterations. But you will say they were

used by the Roman Catholics, who are a very superstitious and bigoted set of people. This is no objection at all, because the Roman Catholics were not always so bad, and what is a proof of this is, that there once was no other religion in the world; and we cannot think that church very wicked, which God chose, once, to make the sole guardian of his truth. There have been many excellent and pious men among the Roman Catholics, even at the time their public faith was corrupted.

You may have heard of the Reformation; you know it was brought about by Luther and Calvin, in the sixteenth century, about 1536. Now, Calvin is the founder of the sect of Independents, such as those who meet at Castlegate, yet he had a hand in framing the liturgy, which, with alterations, we now use, and he selected it in part from the liturgy of the Roman church; because they had received it from the primitive Christians, who were more immediately taught by the apostles. *The Reformation* means that change in religion which was brought about, as said before, by Luther and Calvin, in consequence of the abuses and errors which had crept into the Romish church.

You may possibly think the responses, or answers of the clerk and people, rather ridiculous. This absurdity, however, generally consists more in the manner than in the thing. They were intended to be pronounced aloud by the people, and were used as a means to keep their attention awake, and show their sincerity. At the time this form was invented, not one man in five or six hundred could read; and these repetitions answered another purpose, of fixing important ejaculations and sentences in their minds. In these days the same necessity does not exist; but we still retain the form on account of its other advantages, and through reverence of such an antiquity, as almost vouches for its being acceptable to God, who has permitted it to be used by the wisest and best of men for so long a period.

I think I have now nearly tired you Pray write
to me soon, and believe me,

My dear James,
Your very affectionate brother,
H K WHITE

TO MR. B. MADDOCK.

St. John's College, Cambridge, Nov 10th, 1803

MY DEAR BEN,

* * * *

THE reasons why I said mathematical studies did not agree with me, were these—that I am more inclined to classical pursuits, and that, considering what disadvantages I lie under, in being deaf, I am afraid I cannot excel in them I have at present entirely laid them aside, as I am reading for the university scholarship, which will soon be vacant—there are expected to be 13 or 14 candidates, some of whom are of great note from *Eton*, and I have as much expectation of gaining it, as of being elected supreme magus over the mysteries of Mithra. The scholarship is of no value in itself adequate to the labour of reading for it; but it is the greatest classical honour in the university, and is a pretty sure road to a fellowship My classical abilities here have attracted some attention, and my Latin Themes, in particular, have drawn forth enquiries from the tutors as to the place of my education The reason why I have determined to sit for the scholarship is this, that to have simply been a candidate for it establishes a man's character, as many of the first classics in the university have failed of it.

* * * *

I begin now to feel at home in my little room, and I wish you were here to see how snugly I sit by my blazing fire in the cold evenings College certainly has charms, though I have a few things rankling at my heart which will not let me be quite happy.—
Ora, Ora, pro me.

This last sentence of mine is of a very curious tendency, to be sure : for who is there of mortals who has *not* something rankling at his heart, which will not let him be happy ?

It is curious to observe the different estimations two men make of one another's happiness. Each of them surveys the external appearance of the other's situation, and, comparing them with the secret disquieting circumstances of his own, thinks him happier ; and so it is that all the world over, be we favoured as we may, there is always something which others have, and which we ourselves have not, necessary to the completion of our felicity. I think, therefore, upon the whole, there is no such thing as positive happiness in this world ; and a man can only be deemed felicitous, as he is in comparison less affected with positive evil. It is our business, therefore, to support ourselves under existing ills, with the anticipation of future blessings. Life, with all its bitters, is a draught soon drunk ; and though we have many changes to fear on this side the grave, beyond it we know of none.

Your life and mine are now marked out ; and our calling is of such a nature, that it ill becomes us to be too much affected with circumstances of an external nature. It is our duty to bear our evils with dignified silence. Considering our superior consolations, they are small in comparison with those of others ; and though they *may* cast a sadness both over our hearts and countenances, which time may not easily remove, yet they must not interfere with our active duties, nor affect our conduct towards others, except by opening our heart with warmer sympathy to their woes, their wants, and miseries.

As you have begun in your religious path, my beloved friend, persevere. Let your love to the Crucified continue as pure as it was at first, while your zeal is more tempered, and your piety more rational and mature. I hope yet to live to see you a pious and respected parish priest. As for me—I hope I shall do my duty as I have strength and

ability, and I hope I shall always continue, what
I now profess myself,

Your friend and brother,

H. K. WHITE.

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

St John's, Cambridge, 10th Dec. 1805

DEAR NEVILLE,

I AM so truly hurt that you should again complain of my long silence, that I cannot refrain from sending this by the post, although I shall send you a parcel to-morrow. The reason of my not having sent you the cravats sooner, is the difficulty I have found in getting them together, since part were in the hands of my laundress, and part dirty. I do not know whether you will find them right, as my linen is, in other respects, deficient, and I have a cause at issue with my washerwoman on that score. This place is literally a den of thieves; my bed-maker, whom we call a *gyp*, from a Greek word signifying a vulture, runs away with every thing he can lay his hands on, and when he is caught, says he only borrows them. He stole a sack of coals a week, as regularly as the week came, when first I had fires; but I have stopped the run of this business, by a monstrous large padlock, which is hung to the staple of the bin. His next trick was to bring me four candles for a pound instead of six; and this trade he carried on for some time, until I accidentally discovered the trick; he then said he had always brought me right until that time, and that then he had brought me *fives*, but had given Mr. H. (a man on the same stair-case) one, because *he thought* he understood I had borrowed one of him, on enquiring of Mr. H. he had not given him one, according to his pretence: but the gentleman was not caught yet, for he declared he had *lent* one to the bed-maker of Lord B. in the rooms below. His

neatest trick is, going to the grocer every now and then for articles in your name, which he converts to his own use. I have stopped him here too, by keeping a check-book. Tea, sugar, and pocket-handkerchiefs are his natural perquisites, and I verily believe he will soon be filling his canister out of mine before my face. There is no redress for all this, for if you change, you are no better off: they are all alike. They know you regard them as a pack of thieves, and their only concern is to steal so dexterously that they may not be confronted with direct proof.

* * * *

Do not be surprised at any apparent negligence in my letters: my time has so many calls for it, that half my duties are neglected. Our college examination comes on next Tuesday, and it is of the utmost moment that I acquit myself well there. A month after will follow the scholarship examination. My time, therefore, at present, will scarcely permit the performance of my promise with respect to the historical papers; but I have them in mind, and I am much bent on perfecting them in a manner superior to their commencement

I would fain write to my brother James, who must by no means think I forget him; but I fear I shall see him before I write to him, on the accounts above stated. The examination for the scholarship is distinct from that of our college, which is a very important one; and while I am preparing for the one, I necessarily neglect the other.

I wish very much to hear from you on religious topics; and remember, that although my leisure at present will not allow me to write to you all I wish, yet it will be the highest gratification to me to read your letters, especially when they relate to your Christian progress. I beseech you not to relax, as you value your peace of mind, and the repose of a dying bed. I wish you would take in the Christian Observer, which is a cheap work, and will yield you much profitable amusement. I have it here

for nothing, and can send you up some of the numbers, if you like.

Remember, and let my mother know, that I have no chance for the university scholarship, and that I only sit for the purpose of letting the university know that I am a decent proficient in the languages.

There is one just vacant which I can certainly get, but I should be obliged to go to Peter-house in consequence, which will not be advisable,—but I must make enquiries about it. I speak with certainty on this subject, because it is restricted to candidates who are in their first year, amongst whom I should probably be equal to any. The others are open to bachelors.

* * * *

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

St John's, December 16th, 1805.

DEAR NEVILLE,

IN consequence of an alteration in my plans, I shall have the pleasure of seeing you at the latter end of this week, and I wish you so to inform my aunt. The reason of this change is this, that I have over-read myself, and I find it absolutely necessary to take some relaxation, and to give up study entirely, for a short time, in order that I may go on better hereafter.

This has been occasioned by our college lectures, which I had driven too late, on account of my being occupied in preparations for the university scholarship examination, and then I was obliged to sag so hard for the college lectures, as the time drew on, that I could take no exercise. Thus I soon knocked myself up, and I now labour under a great general relaxation, and much nervous weakness.

Change of air and place will speedily remove these symptoms; and I shall certainly give up the university scholarship, rather than injure my health.

Do not mention these things to my mother, as she will make it a cause of unnecessary uneasiness.

* * * *

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

St. John's, December 19th, 1805.

DEAR NEVILLE,

I was sorry to receive your letter, desiring me to defer my journey, and I am sorry to be forced to tell you the reason of my coming to town sooner than you wish me. I have had an attack of my old nervous complaint, and my spirits have been so wretchedly shattered, that my surgeon says I shall never be well till I have removed somewhere, where I can have society and amusement. It is a very distressing thing to be ill in college, where you have no attendance, and very little society. Mr. Catton, my tutor, has prevailed upon me, by pressing wishes, to go into the hall to be examined with the men of my year: — I have gone through two examinations, and I have one to come; after that is over, he told me I had better go to my friends directly, and relieve myself with complete relaxation from study. Under these circumstances, the object of my journey to London will be answered, by the mere residence in my aunt's family, and by a cessation from reading. While I am here, I am wretched; I cannot read; the slightest application makes me faint; I have very little society, and that is quite a force upon my friends. I am determined, therefore, to leave this place on Saturday morning, and you may rest satisfied that the purpose of my journey will be fully accomplished by the prattle of my aunt's little ones, and her care. I am not an invalid, since I have no sickness or ailment, but I am weak and low-spirited, and unable to read. The last is the greatest calamity I can experience of a worldly nature. My mind preys upon itself. Had it not

been for *Lesson*, of Clare Hall, I could not have gone through this week. I have been examined twice, and almost without looking over the subjects, and I have given satisfaction; but I am obliged to be kept up by strong medicines to endure this exertion, which is very great.

I am happy, however, to tell you, I am better, and Mr. Farish, the surgeon, says a few days will re-establish me, when I get into another scene, and into society.

* * * * *

TO HIS MOTHER.

London, December 21th, 1805.

MY DEAR MOTHER,

You will, no doubt, have been surprised at not having heard from me for so long a time; and you will be no less so to find that I am writing this at my aunt's in this far-famed city. I have been so much taken up with our college examinations of late, that I could not find time to write even to you, and I am now come to town, in order to give myself every relaxation and amusement I can; for I had read so much at Cambridge, that my health was rather affected, and I was advised to give myself the respite of a week or a fortnight, in order to recover strength. I arrived in town on Saturday night, and should have written yesterday, in order to remove any uneasiness you might feel on my account, but there is no post on Sunday.

I have now to communicate some agreeable intelligence to you. Last week being the close of the Michaelmas term, and our college examination, our tutor, who is a very great man, sent for me, and told me he was sorry to hear I had been ill; he understood I was low-spirited, and wished to know whether I frightened myself about college expenses. I told him that they did contribute some little to

harass me, because I was as yet uncertain what the bills of my first year would amount to. His answer was to this purpose: — "Mr. White, I beg you will not trouble yourself on this subject: your emoluments will be very great, very great indeed, and I will take care your expenses are not very burthensome — Leave that to me!" He advised me to go to my friends, and amuse myself with a total cessation from reading. After our college examination (which lasted six days) was over, he sent for me again, and repeated what he had said before about the expenses of the college; and he added, that if I went on as I had begun, and made myself a good scholar, I might rely on being provided for by the college; for if *the county should be full*, and they could not elect me a fellow, they would recommend me to another college, where they would be glad to receive a clever man from their hands; or, at all events, they could *always* get a young man a situation as a private tutor in a nobleman's family; or could put him in some handsome way of preferment. "We make it a rule (he said) of providing for a clever man, whose fortune is small; and you may therefore rest assured, Mr. White, that, after you have taken your degree, you will be provided with a genteel competency *by the college*." He begged I would be under no apprehensions on these accounts: he shook hands with me very affectionately, and wished me a speedy recovery. These attentions from a man like the tutor of St. John's are very marked; and Mr. Catton is well known for doing more than he says. I am sure, after these assurances from a principal of so respectable a society as St. John's, I have nothing more to fear; and I hope you will never repine on my account again: — according to every appearance, my lot in life is certain.

* * * * *

TO MR. B. MADDOCK.

London, Xmas, 1805

MY DEAR BEN,

You would have had no reason to complain of my long silence, had I preferred my self-justification to your case. I wrote you a letter, which now lies in my drawer at St. John's, but in such a weak state of body, and in so desponding and comfortless a tone of mind, that I knew it would give you pain, and therefore I chose not to send it. I have indeed been ill; but, thanks to God, I am recovered. My nerves were miserably shattered by over-application, and the absence of all that could amuse, and the presence of many things which weighed heavy upon my spirits. When I found myself too ill to read, and too desponding to endure my own reflections, I discovered that it is really a miserable thing to be destitute of the soothing and supporting hand when nature most needs it. I wandered up and down from one man's room to another, and from one college to another, imploring society, a little conversation, and a little relief of the burthen which pressed upon my spirits; and I am sorry to say, that those who, when I was cheerful and lively, sought my society with avidity, now, when I actually needed conversation, were too busy to grant it. Our college examination was then approaching, and I perceived with anguish that I had read for the university scholarship, until I had barely time to get up our private subjects, and that as I was now too ill to read, all hope of getting through the examination with decent respectability was at an end. This was an additional grief. I went to our tutor, with tears in my eyes, and told him I must absent myself from the examination, — a step which would have precluded me from a station amongst the prize-men until the second year. He earnestly entreated me to run the risk. My surgeon gave me strong stimulants and supporting medicines during the examination week,

and I passed, I believe, one of the most respectable examinations amongst them. As soon as ever it was over I left Cambridge, by the advice of my surgeon and tutor, and I feel myself now pretty strong. I have given up the thought of sitting for the university scholarship in consequence of my illness, as the course of my reading was effectually broken. In this place, I have been much amused, and have been received with an attention in the literary circles which I neither expected nor deserved. But this does not affect me as it once would have done: my views are widely altered; and I hope that I shall in time learn to lay my whole heart at the foot of the cross.

I have only one thing more to tell you of about my illness: it is, that I have found in a young man, with whom I had little acquaintance, that kind care and attention, which I looked for in vain from those who professed themselves my nearest friends. At a time when * * * could not find leisure to devote a single evening to his sick friend, even when he earnestly implored it, William Leeson constantly, and even against my wish, devoted *every* evening to the relieving of my melancholy, and the enlivening of my solitary hours. With the most constant and affectionate assiduity, he gave me my medicines, administered consolation to my broken spirits, and even put me to bed.

* * * * *

TO MR. P. THOMPSON.

London, 1st January, 1806.

SIR,

I owe it both to my feelings and my duty, that I should thank you for the kind enquiries you have thought it worth while to make concerning me and my affairs. I have just learned the purport of a let-

ter received from you by Mr. Robinson, the bookseller, and it is a pleasing task to me, at the same time that I express my sense of your benevolent concern in my behalf, to give you myself the information you require

The little volume which, considered as the production of a very young man, may have interested you, has not had a very great sale, although it may have had as much countenance as it deserved. The last report I received from the publishers, was 450 sold. So far it has answered the expectations I had formed from it, that it has procured me the acquaintance, and perhaps, I may say, the friendship of men equally estimable for their talents and their virtues. Rewarded by their countenance, I am by no means dissatisfied with my little book, indeed, I think its merits have, on the whole, rather been over-rated than otherwise, which I attribute to the lenity so readily afforded to the faults of youth, and to the promptitude with which benevolent minds give encouragement where encouragement seems to be wanted.

With regard to my personal concerns, I have succeeded in placing myself at Cambridge, and have already kept one term. My college is St. John's, where, in the rank of Sizar, I shall probably be enabled to live almost independently of external support: but should I need that support, I have it in my power to draw on a friend, whose name I am not permitted to mention, for any sum not exceeding 30*l* per annum. With habits of frugality, I shall never need this sum: so that I am quite at ease with respect to my college expenses, and am at full leisure to pursue my studies with a free and vacant mind.

I am at present in the great city, where I have come, in consequence of a little injudicious application, a suitor to health, variety, and amusement. In a few days I shall return to Cambridge, where (should you ever pass that way) I hope you will not forget that I reside there three fourths of the year.

It would, indeed, give me pleasure to say personally how much I am obliged by your enquiries.

I hope you will put a favourable construction both on the minuteness and the length of this letter, and permit me to subscribe myself,

Sir,

Very thankfully and obediently,

Yours,

H. K. WHITE.

TO MR. B. MADDOCK.

St. John's, February 17th, 1806.

DEAR SIR,

* * * * *

Do not think I am reading hard: I believe it is all over with that. I have had a recurrence of my old complaint within this last four or five days, which has half unnerved me for every thing. The state of my health is really miserable; I am well and lively in the morning, and overwhelmed with nervous horrors in the evening. I do not know how to proceed with regard to my studies:—a very slight over-stretch of the mind in the daytime occasions me not only a sleepless night, but a night of *gloom* and horror. The systole and diastole of my heart seem to be playing at ball—the stake, my life. I can only say the game is not yet decided:—I allude to the violence of the palpitation.

I am going to mount the Gog-magog hills this morning, in quest of a good night's sleep. The Gog-magog hills for my body, and the Bible for my mind, are my only medicines. I am sorry to say, that neither are quite adequate. *Cui, igitur; dandum est vitio? Mihi proisus.* I hope as the summer comes, my spirits (which have been with the swallows a winter's journey) will come with it. When my spirits are restored, my health will be

restored :—the *fons mali* lies there Give me serenity and equability of mind, and all will be well there.

* * * * *

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

St. John's, 11th March, 1806.

DEAR NEVILLE,

* * * * *

I HOPE you read *Mason on Self-knowledge* now and then. It is a useful book ; and it will help you greatly in framing your spirit to the ways of humility, piety, and peace Reading, occasional meditation, and constant prayer, will infallibly guide you to happiness, as far as we *can* be happy *here*, and will help you on your way to that blessed abode, where I hope, ardently hope, we shall all meet hereafter in the assembly of the saints Go coolly and deliberately, but determinately, to the work of your salvation. Do nothing *here* in a hurry ; deliberate upon every thing, take your steps cautiously, yet with a simple reliance on the mercy of your God and Saviour, and wherever you see your duty lie, lose no time in acting up to it. This is the only way to arrive at comfort in your Christian career ; and the constant observance of this maxim will, with the assistance of God, smooth your way with quietness and repose, even to the brink of eternity, and beyond the gulf that bounds it.

I had almost dropped the idea of seeing Nottingham this next long vacation, as my stay in Cambridge may be importantly useful, but I think now, I shall go down for my health's, and more particularly for my mother's sake, whom my presence will comfort, and perhaps help I shall be glad to moor all my family in the harbour of religious trust, and in the calm seas of religious peace. These concerns

are apt, at times, to escape me ; but they now press much upon my heart ; and I think it is my first duty to see that my family are safe in the most important of all affairs.

* * * * *

TO THE REV. J. PLUMBTRE.

St. John's, March 12th, 1806.

DEAR SIR,

I hope you will excuse the long delay which I have made in sending the song I am afraid I have trespassed on your patience, if, indeed, so unimportant a subject can have given you any thought at all. If you think it worth while to send the song to your publisher, I should prefer the omission of the writer's name, as the insertion of it would only be a piece of idle ostentation, and answer no end. My name will neither give credit to the verses, nor the verses confer honour on my name.

It will give me great pleasure to hear that your labours have been successful in the town of * * *, where, I fear, much is to be done. I am one of those who think that the love of virtue is not sufficient to make a virtuous man ; for the love of virtue is a mere mental preference of the beautiful to the deformed ; and we see but too often that immediate gratification outweighs the dictates of our judgment. If men could always perform their duty as well as they can discern it, or if they would attend to their real interests as well as they can see them, there would be little occasion for moral instruction. Sir Richard Steele, who wrote like a saint, and who, in his *Christian Hero*, shows the strongest marks of a religious and devout heart, lived, notwithstanding all this, a drunkard and a debauchee. And what can be the cause of this apparent contradiction ? Was it that he had not strength of mind to act up to his views ? Then a man's salvation may depend on strength of intellect !! Or does not this

rather show that superior motives are wanting? That assistance is yet necessary, when the ablest of men has done his utmost? If then such aid be necessary, how can it be obtained?—by a virtuous life?—Surely not; because, to live really a virtuous life, implies this aid to have been first given. We are told in Scripture how it may be attained, namely, by humble trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, as our atoning sacrifice. This, therefore, is the foundation of religious life, and, as such, ought to be the fundamental principle of religious instruction. This is the test of our obedience, the indispensable preliminary before we can enjoy the favour of God. What, therefore, can we urge with more propriety from the pulpit than *FATH*?—to preach morality does not include the principle of faith—to preach faith includes every branch of morality, at the same time that it affords it its present sanctions and its strongest incitements.

I am afraid I have trespassed on your patience, and I must beg of you to excuse the badness of the writing, for which I have the plea of illness. I hope your health is yet firm, and that God will in mercy prosper your endeavours for the good of your flock.

I am, dear Sir,

Very respectfully yours,

H. K. WHITE.

TO HIS MOTHER.

St. John's, Cambridge, April, 1806.

DEAR MOTHER,

* * * *

I AM quite unhappy to see you so anxious on my account, and also that you should think me neglectful of you. Believe me, my dear mother, my thoughts are often with you. Never do I lay myself on my

bed, before you have all passed before me in my prayers; and one of my first earthly wishes is to make you comfortable, and provide that rest and quiet for your mind which you so much need; and never fear but I shall have it in my power some time or other. My prospects wear a flattering appearance. I shall be almost sure of a fellowship somewhere or other, and then, if I get a curacy in Cambridge, I shall have a clear income of 170*l.* per annum, besides my board and lodging, perhaps more. If I do not reside in Cambridge, I shall have some quiet parsonage, where you may come and spend the summer months. Maria and Kate will then be older, and you will be less missed. On all accounts *you* have much reason to indulge happier dreams. My health is considerably better. Only do you take as much care of yours as I do of mine, and all will be well. I exhort, and entreat, and beseech you, as you love me and all your children, that you will take your bitters, *without ceasing*. As you wish me to pay regard to your exhortations, attend to this.

* * * *

TO HIS MOTHER.

St. John's, April, 1805.

DEAR MOTHER,

I AM a good deal surprised at not having heard from you in answer to my last. You will be surprised to hear the purport of my present letter, which is no less than that I shall spend the ensuing Easter vacation in Nottingham. The reasons which have induced me to make this so wide an alteration in my plan, are these: I have had some symptoms of the return of my old complaint, and both my doctor and tutor think I had better take a fortnight's relaxation at home. I hope you will not think I have neglected exercise, since I have taken more this

term than I ever did before ; but I shall enlarge my hours of recreation still more, since I find it necessary, for my health's sake, so to do.

You need not give yourself any uneasiness as to my health, for I am quite recovered. I was chiefly afflicted with sleeplessness and palpitations of the heart, which symptoms have now disappeared, and I am quite restored to my former good health. My journey will re-establish me completely, and it will give me no small pleasure to see you after so long an absence from home. I shall be very idle while I am at Nottingham ; I shall only amuse myself with teaching Maria and Kate.

* * * *

(SUPPOSED TO BE ADDRESSED)

TO MRS. WEST.

I HAVE stolen your first volume of Letters from the chimney-piece of a college friend, and I have been so much pleased both with the spirit, conduct, and style of the work, that I cannot refrain from writing to tell you so. I shall read the remaining volumes immediately ; but as I am at this moment just in that desultory mood when a man can best write a letter, I have determined not to delay, what, if I defer at all, I shall probably not do at all.

Well, then, my dear Madam, although I have insidiously given you to understand, that I write to tell you how much I approve your work, I will be frank enough to tell you likewise that I think, in one point, it is faulty ; and that, if I had not discovered what I consider to be a defect in the book, I should probably not have written for the mere purpose of declaiming on its excellencies.

Start not, Madam ; it is in that very point whereon you have bestowed most pains, that I think the work is faulty — *Religion*. If I mistake not, there will be some little confusion of idea detected, if we

examine this part narrowly ; and as I am not quite idle enough to write my opinions without giving the reasons for them, I will endeavour to explain why I think so.

Religion, then, Madam, I conceive to be the service a creature owes to his Creator ; and I take it for granted, *that* service implies some self-denial, and some labour ; for if it did not involve something unpleasing to ourselves, it would be a duty we should *all of necessity* perform. Well, then, if religion call for self-denial, there must be some motive to induce men voluntarily to undergo such privations as may be consequent on a religious life, and those motives must be such as affect either the present state of existence, or some other future state of existence. Certainly, then, those motives which arise from the expectation of a future state of existence, must, in reality, be infinitely more important than those which are founded in temporal concerns, although, to mankind, the immediate presence of temporal things may outweigh the distant apprehension of the future. Granting, therefore, that the future world is the main object of our religious exercises, it will follow that they are the most important concerns of a man's life, and that every other consideration is light and trifling in the comparison. For the world to come is everlasting, while the present world is but very short. Foolish, then, indeed, and short-sighted must that creature be, which can prefer the conveniences and accommodations of the present to the happiness of the eternal future.

All Christians, therefore, who undertake to lay down a chart for the young and inexperienced, by which they may steer with security through the ocean of life, will be expected to make religion a prominent feature on the canvass : and that, too, not only by giving it a larger space, but by enforcing the superiority of this consideration to every other. Now this is what I humbly conceive you have not altogether done ; and I think, indeed, if I be competent to judge, you have failed in two points ; — in making religion only a subordinate consideration to

a young man, and in not defining distinctly the essentials of religion

I would ask you, then, in what way you so impress religion on the mind of your son, as one would expect that person would impress it who was conscious that it was of the first importance? Do you instruct him to turn occasionally, when his leisure may permit, to pious and devout meditation? Do you direct him to make religion the one great aim and end of his being? Do you exhort him to frequent private and earnest prayer to the Spirit of Holiness, that he would sanctify all his doings? Do you teach him that the praise or the censure, the admiration or the contempt of the world is of little importance, so as his heart be right before the Great Judge? Do you tell him that, as his reason now opens, he should gradually withdraw from the gayer and occasionally more unlicensed diversions of the world—the hall-room, the theatre, and the public concert, in order that he may abstract his mind more from the too fascinating delights of life, and fit himself for the new scene of existence, which will, sooner or later, open upon his view? No, Madam, I think you do not do this. You tell him there is a deal of enthusiasm in persons who, though they mean well, are over-strict in their religious performances. You tell him, that assemblies, dances, theatres, are elegant amusements, though you couple the fine arts with them, which I am sorry to see in such company. I, too, am enthusiastically attached to the fine arts. Poetry, painting, and music, are amongst my most delicious and chastest pleasures; and happy, indeed, do I feel when I can make even these contribute to the great end, and draw my soul from its sphere, to fix it on its Maker and Redeemer. I am fond, too, of tragedy, and though I do not find it with so much purity and chastity in Shakespeare as in the old Greek dramatists, yet I know how to appreciate its beauties in him too. Besides these, I have a thousand other amusements of the most refined nature, without either theatres, balls, or card-tables. The theatre is not in itself an im-

moral institution, but in its present state it is ; and I feel much for an uncorrupted, frank lad of fourteen who is permitted to visit this stew of licentiousness, impudence, and vice. Your plan seems to me this : — Teach a boy to lead an honest, upright life, and to do his duty, and he will gain the good-will of God by the very tenour of his actions. This is, indeed, an easy kind of religion, for it *involves no self-denial* ; but true religion *does involve self-denial*. The inference is obvious. I say it involves no self-denial ; because a well-educated sensible lad will see so many inconveniences in vicious indulgences, that he will choose the virtuous by a natural effort of the understanding ; and so, according to this system, he will ensure heaven by the soundness of his policy and the rectitude of his understanding.

Admitting this to be a true doctrine, Christianity has been of no material service to mankind, and the Son of God might have spared his blood ; for the heathens knew all this, and not only knew it, but many of them put it into practice. What then has Christianity done ? — But the Scripture teaches us the reverse of this : It teaches us to give God our whole heart, to live to him, to pray continually, and to fix our affections, not on things temporal, but on things eternal. Now, I ask you, whether, without any sophistry, or any perversion of the meaning of words, you can reconcile this with your religious instruction to your son.

I think, likewise, that you do not define the essentials of religion distinctly. We are either saved by the atonement of Jesus Christ, or we are not ; and if we *are*, then all men are necessarily saved, or some are necessarily not saved ; and if some are not saved, it must be from causes either existing in the individuals themselves, or from causes existing in the economy of God's dispensations. Now, Madam, we are told that Jesus Christ died for all, but we grant that all are not saved. Why then are some not saved ! It is because they do not act in a manner worthy of God's favour ! Then a man's salvation depends upon his *actions*. But we are told in

Scripture, that it does not depend on his actions — “By faith are ye saved, without the works of the law;” — therefore it either must depend on some other effort of the creature, or on the will of the Creator. I will not dispute the question of Calvinism with you; I will grant that Calvinism is indefensible; but this all must concede who believe the Scriptures, that we are to be saved by faith only through Jesus Christ. I ask, therefore, whether you have taught this to your son, and I ask whether there is one trait in your instructions, in common with the humbling, self-denying religion taught by the Apostles, by the homilies of our church, and by all the reformers? The chief argument of the latter against the Romish church was their asserting the validity of works. Now what ideas must your son have of Christian faith? You say that even *Shakspeare’s debauchees were believers*; and he is given to understand, that he is a good Christian, if he do his duty to his master and fellows, go to church every Sunday, and keep clear of enthusiasm. And what has Jesus Christ to do with your system; and where is that *faith* banished, of which every page of Scripture is full? — Can this be right? “*Closet devotion*” is the means of attaining faith; and humble prayer is the true means of arriving at fervency in religion, without enthusiasm. You condemn Socinianism; but I ask you where Jesus Christ appears in your scheme, and where the influences of the Holy Ghost, and even his names, are banished from it?

* * * *

TO MR. WILLIAM LEESON.

Nottingham, 7th April, 1806.

DEAR LEESON,

I beg your pardon for not having replied sooner to your letter and invitation. It seems determined upon, by my mother, that I cannot be spared, since

the time of my stay is so very short, and my health so very uncertain. The people here can scarcely be persuaded that any thing ails me, so well do I look; but occasional depressions, especially after any thing has occurred to occasion uneasiness, still harass me. My mind is of a very peculiar cast. I began to think *too early*; and the indulgence of certain trains of thought, and too free an exercise of the imagination, have superinduced a morbid kind of sensibility; which is to the *mind* what excessive irritability is to the *body*. Some circumstances occurred on my arrival at Nottingham, which gave me just cause for inquietude and anxiety; the consequences were *insomnia*, and a relapse into careless dejections. It is my business now to curb these irrational and immoderate affections, and by accustoming myself to sober thought and cool reasoning, to restrain these freaks and vagaries of the fancy, and redundancies of $\mu\epsilon\gamma\alpha\lambda\omicron\chi\omicron\iota\alpha$. When I am well, I cannot help entertaining a sort of contempt for the weakness of mind which marks my indispositions. Titus when well, and Titus when ill, are two distinct persons. The man, when in *health*, despises the man, when *ill*, for his weakness, and the latter envies the former for his felicity. I hope you will not quarrel with my metaphysics, but gravely consult your Locke, and Bishop Butler's introductory dissertation, for the whole controversy about Personal Identity. You will there find reason to question, whether you are to-day the same individual that you were yesterday; and, probably, if you drink deeply of the recondite streams of the Sophists, you may, in the end, doubt with Pyrrho, whether you *are* at all, or whether the gay pageantry of life, and its attendants, be more than a dream, in which you are a fictitious personage, created by the fancy of the dreamer. But, away with Pyrrhonism! I would rather swell with Epicurus, or vaunt with Zeno, than first doubt the existence of all things, and then *doubt* whether I *doubted* at all. It is an amusing and an instructive exercise, to survey the multifarious appearance of Heathen Philosophy, to examine its varied

characteristics, its excellences and defects, and then to turn to the pure fountains of Gospel truth, and dwell upon their beauties, as set off by the foils of folly and falsehood. Conviction never breaks with more clear and decisive evidence into my mind than when I draw this comparison. When I see the best and wisest of the Heathen Philosophers labouring all their lives after virtue and truth, and catching but such slight and passing glimpses of their perfections, as just to show how desirable they are, without being able to draw aside, for a moment, the veil that conceals them; and when, on the other hand, I contemplate the lowly Jesus, and his de-priv'd companions, instantaneously revealing all that is lovely in morals; all that is noble in conception, and sublime in principle, all, in short, that the wise and the learned had so long toiled after in vain, I am constrained to exclaim with Pharaoh, "*This is the finger of God.*"

Socrates saw more of moral truth than any preceding philosopher, and it is worth remarking that his principles approach nearest to the Gospel. Socrates said, that there was such a proneness to evil in the nature of man that we could not act virtuously, without some supernatural or extraordinary assistance from the Deity, and his first inculcated the forgiveness of injuries. Yet, when we compare Socrates and his doctrines, with Jesus Christ and the Gospel, we perceive the difference between them to be such as could not exist between *men* alone. The infidel and inconstant Rousseau was so struck with this comparison, as to exclaim, that if *Socrates* was a *sage*, *Jesus Christ* was a *God*. Dr. Priestley covers the matter more artfully, and in a work written on this very subject, almost equals the philosopher with the Redeemer of the world. Dr. Priestley was an insidious and artful reasoner:—Rousseau had unbounded pride, but more vehemence, and of course less concealment. I am writing to you in a very rambling, incoherent style, which I hope you will pardon, on the score of familiarity. I write to you as I should *talk* to you.

* * * *

I assure you I see daily more reason to temper zeal with discretion, and to make the service of Christ a *rational service*. Our feelings are not the least fallible guides in religion. The man who walks humbly and soberly with his God,—scrupulously exact in the performance of his duties,—hallowing all his doings with the exercise of faith in Jesus Christ, and fortifying his ways with prayer and meditation; this man will have feelings of the most satisfactory kind,—he will feel the Spirit of peace and love shedding serenity over all his thoughts: he will feel the dews of God's blessing descending upon his soul. This is the effect of that Spirit, which the Apostle mentions, "as witnessing with our spirits, that we are the children of God." But this species of spiritual enjoyment is not to be resorted to, as the *touchstone* of our acceptance with God. It is not the *necessary* attendant of a religious life, though it is so frequently enjoyed by the pious, and so clearly promised to them in Scripture, that we may all hope for it. And I can only give it as my opinion, that those who continually resort to their feelings, as the criterion of their religious progress, are the least likely to enjoy this sweet reward of our labours, and foretaste of the joys to come.

I have scarcely left room for my name. Give my respects to your friends, with thanks for their invitation. I shall be in Cambridge on Wednesday week.

Your's truly.

TO MR. P. THOMPSON.

Nottingham, April 8th, 1806.

DEAR SIR,

I SINCERELY beg your pardon for my ungrateful disregard of your polite letter. The intervening period has been so much taken up, on the one hand, by ill health, and on the other by occupations of the most indispensable kind, that I have neglected almost

all my friends, and you amongst the rest. I am now at Nottingham, a truant from study, and a rejected votary at the shrine of Health; a few days will bring me back to the margin of the *Cym*, and bury me once more in the busy routine of college exercises. Before, however, I am again a man of bustle and occupation, I snatch a few moments to tell you how much I shall be gratified by your correspondence, and how greatly I think myself flattered by your esteeming mine worth asking for.

The little sketch of your past occupations and present pursuits interested me. Cultivate, with all assiduity, the taste for letters which you possess. It will be a source of exquisite gratification to you; and if directed, as it ought to be, and I hope as it will be directed, it will be more than gratification, (if we understand pleasure alone by that word,) since it will combine with it utility of the highest kind. If polite letters were merely instrumental in cheering the hours of elegant leisure, in affording refined and polished pleasures, uncontaminated with gross and sensual gratifications, they would still be valuable; but in a degree infinitely less than when they are considered as the handmaids of the virtues, the correctors as well as the adorners of society. But literature has, of late years, been prostituted to all the purposes of the bagnio. Poetry, in particular, arrayed in her most bewitching colours, has been taught to exercise the arts of the *Leno*, and to charm only that she may destroy. The Muse, who once dipped her hardy wing in the chastest dews of *Catalia*, and spoke nothing but what had a tendency to confirm and invigorate the manly ardour of a virtuous mind, now breathes only the voluptuous languishings of the harlot, and, like the brood of *Circe*, touches her charmed chords with a grace, that, while it ravishes the ear, deludes and beguiles the sense. I call to witness Mr. Moore, and the tribe of imitators which his success has called forth, that my statement is true. Lord Strangford has trodden faithfully in the steps of his pattern.

I hope for the credit of poetry, that the good sense of the age will scout this insidious school ; and what may we not expect, if Moore and Lord Strangford apply themselves to a chaster muse?—They are both men of uncommon powers. You may remember the reign of Drydenian poetry, and the sopperies of Della Crusca. To these succeeded the school of *Simplicity*, in which Wordsworth, Southey, and Coleridge, are so deservedly eminent. I think that the new tribe of poets endeavour to combine these two opposite sects, and to unite richness of language, and warmth of colouring, with simplicity and pathos. They have certainly succeeded ; but Moore unhappily wished to be a Catullus, and from him has sprung the licentiousness of the new school. Moore's poems and his translations will, I think, have more influence on the female society of this kingdom, than the stage has had in its *worst period*, the reign of Charles II. Ladies are not ashamed of having the delectable Mr. Little on their toilet, which is a pretty good proof that his voluptuousness is considered as quite veiled by the sentimental garb in which it is clad. But voluptuousness is not the less dangerous for having some slight resemblance of the veil of modesty. On the contrary, her fascinations are infinitely more powerful in this retiring habit than when she boldly protrudes herself on the gazer's eye, and openly solicits his attention. The broad indecency of Wycherly and his contemporaries was not half so dangerous as this *insinuating* and *half-covered* mock delicacy, which makes use of the blush of modesty in order to heighten the charms of vice.

I must conclude somewhat abruptly, by begging you will not punish my negligence towards you, by retarding the pleasure I shall receive from your answer.

I am,

Very truly yours,

H. K. WHITE

Address to me, St. John's College, Cambridge.

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

St. John's, May, 1806.

MY DEAR NEVILLE,

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My long delayed and very anciently-promised letter to Charlesworth will reach him shortly. Tell him that I have written once to him in Latin, but that having torn the paper in two by mistake, I could not summon resolution to copy it.

I was glad to hear of the *sciat* with which he disputed and came off on so difficult a subject as the Nerves; and I beg him, if he have made any discoveries, to communicate them to me, who being persecuted by these same nerves, should be glad to have some better acquaintance with my invisible enemies.

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TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

St. John's, June 30th, 1806.

DEAR NEVILLE,

I RECEIVED your letter yesterday; and I hope you will not think my past silence at all in need of apology, when you know that our examination only closed on Saturday.

I have the satisfaction of informing you that, after a week's scrutiny, I was deemed to be the first man. I had very little hopes of arriving at so distinguishing a station, on account of my many checks and interruptions. It gave me great pleasure to observe how all the men rejoiced in my success. It was on Monday that the classes were published. I am a prize-man both in the mathematical and logical, or general examination, and in Latin composition.

Mr. Catton has expressed his great satisfaction at my progress; and he has offered to supply me with a private tutor for the four months of the vacation, free of any expense. This will cost the college twelve or fifteen guineas at least. My last term bill amounts only to 4*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*, after my exhibitions are deducted.

I had engaged to take charge of a few classical pupils for a clergyman in Warwickshire, during *one* month of the vacation, for which I was to receive, besides my board, &c. &c. ten guineas; but Mr. Catton says this is a piece of extreme folly, as it will consume time, and do me no good. He told me, therefore, positively, that he would not give me an *exam.*, without which no man can leave his college for the night.

I cannot, therefore, at all events, visit Nottingham with my aunt, nor meet her there.

I could now, if I chose, leave St. John's College, and go to another with great *éclat*; but it would be an unadvisable step. I believe, however, it will be impossible for them to elect me a fellow at St. John's, as my county is under particular restrictions. They can give me a fellowship of smaller value, but I had rather get one at another college: at all events, the smaller colleges will be glad to elect me from St. John's.

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With regard to cash, I manage pretty well, though my fund is at present at its lowest ebb. My bills, however, are paid; and I have no occasion for money, except as a private convenience. The question therefore is, whether it will be more inconvenient to you than convenient to me for you to replenish my purse. Decide impartially. I have not drawn upon my mother since Christmas, except for the expense of my journey up from Nottingham to Cambridge; nor do I mean to do it till next Christmas, when, as I have ordered a suit of clothes, I shall have a good many calls for money.

Let me have a long letter from you soon.

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TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

St. John's College, 30th June, 1806

MY DEAR NEVILLE,

* * * *

I AM not much surprised at the long delay you have made in your approach to the Lord's table, nor do I blame your caution; but remember, that there is a difference between hesitation, on account of the awful nature of the ordinance, and the consciousness of unfitness; and hesitation on account of an unwillingness to bind yourself with still stronger ties to the profession of Christianity. You may fear to approach that holy table, lest you should again fall away, and your latter state should be worse than your first: but you must not absent yourself from it, *in order that you may fall away* with less danger to your soul. You cannot, by any means, purify yourself, so as become a *worthy* partaker of that blessed ordinance; but you may qualify yourself to partake of it with a quiet conscience, and spiritual comfort. The very sense of unworthiness of which you complain, is the best of all possible frames of mind with which you can approach the sacred table; and there can be little doubt, that with such an abiding consciousness of unfitness about you, God will have respect to your weakness, and will bestow upon you such an additional portion of his strength, as shall effectually guard you against subsequent temptations. A particular blessing, attendant on the holy communion, is, that it strengthens us in the ways of Christ. God seems to have a peculiar care for those who have sealed their profession with this solemn office; and Christians appear to receive a portion of spiritual strength at these periods which bears them through, till they again meet at the holy mysteries

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Opportunity for quiet meditation is a great blessing, I wish I knew how to appreciate its value. For you, my dear brother, be not discouraged: God

sees your difficulties and will administer to your weaknesses; and if, after much prayer and serious thought, you can endue yourself with the garb of humility, and kneel a trembling guest at the table of your Redeemer, content even to pick up the crumbs that fall from it, and deem them far beyond your desert; if, I say, you can go to the sacrament with these feelings, never fear but our all-blessed and benign Father will approve of your offering, and will bless you accordingly. Do not, however, be hurried into the step by the representations of your friends. Go, then, only when your heart, consecrated by prayer, longs to partake of the body and blood of its Saviour, and to taste, in more near and full fruition, the fruits of redeeming love. And may God's blessing, my dear brother, attend you in it, and make it a means of confirming you in his way, and of weaning you more completely from the world, and its passing joys!

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TO HIS AUNT.*

St. John's, Cambridge, Jan. 6th, 1806.

MY DEAR AUNT,

I AM at length once more settled in my rooms at Cambridge; but I am grown so idle, and so luxurious since I have been under your hands, that I cannot read with half my usual diligence.

I hope you concluded the Christmas holidays on Monday evening with the customary glee; and I hope my uncle was well enough to partake of your merriment. You must now begin your penitential days, after so much riot and feasting; and, with your three little prattlers around you, I am sure

* This letter is misplaced, not having been received in time to be inserted in right order.

your evenings will flow pleasantly by your own fire-side. Visiting and gaiety are very well by way of change; but there is no enjoyment so lasting as that of one's own family. Elizabeth will soon be old enough to amuse you with her conversation; and, I trust, you will take every opportunity of teaching her to put the right value on things, and to exercise her own good sense. It is amazing how soon a child may become a real comfort to its mother, and how much even young minds will form habits of affection towards those who treat them like reasonable beings, capable of seeing the right and wrong of themselves. A very little girl may be made to understand that there are some things which are pleasant and amusing, which are still less worthy of attention than others more disagreeable and painful. Children are, in general, fond of little ornaments of dress, especially females; and though we may allow them to be elevated with their trifling splendours, yet we should not forget to remind them, that, although people may admire their dress, yet they will admire them much more for their good sense, sweetness of temper, and generosity of disposition. Children are very quick-sighted to discern whether you approve of them, and they are very proud of your approbation when they think you bestow it: we should therefore be careful how we praise them, and for what. If we praise their dress, it should be slightly, and as if it were a matter of very small importance; but we should never let any mark of consideration, or goodness of heart, in a child, pass by, without some token of approbation. Still we must never praise a child too much, nor too warmly, for that would beget vanity; and when praise is moderately, yet judiciously bestowed, a child values it more, because it feels that it is just. I don't like punishments. You will never torture a child into duty; but a sensible child will dread the frown of a judicious mother more than all the rods, dark rooms, and scolding school-mistresses in the universe. We should teach our children to make friends of us, to communicate all

their thoughts to us; and while their innocent prattle will amuse us, we shall find many opportunities of teaching them important truths, almost without knowing it.

I admire all your little ones, and I hope to see Elizabeth one day an accomplished and sensible girl. Give my love to them, and tell them not to forget their cousin Henry, who wants a housekeeper at college!

Though I have written so long a letter, I am, indeed, offended with you, and I dare say you know the reason very well.

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P S Whenever you are disposed to write a letter, think of me

TO HIS SISTER.

St John's, June 25th, 1806.

MY DEAR SISTER,

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THE intelligence you gave me of Mr Foret's illness, &c &c cannot affect me in any way whatever. The master-ship of the school must be held by a *clergyman*; and I very well recollect that he is restrained from holding any curacy, or other ministerial office. The salary is not so large as you mention: and if it were, the place would scarcely be an object to me; for I am very certain, that if I choose, when I have taken my degree, I may have half-a-dozen pupils to prepare for the university, with a salary of 100*l.* per annum, which would be more respectable, and more consonant to my habits and studies, than drilling the fry of a trading town in learning, which they do not know how to value. Latin and Greek are nothing like so much respected in Nottingham as Wingate's Arithmetic.

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It is well for you that you can still enjoy the privilege of sitting under the sound of the Gospel;

and the wants of others, in these respects, will, perhaps, teach you how to value the blessing. All our comforts, and almost all our hopes here, lie at the mercy of every succeeding hour. Death is always at hand to bereave us of some dear connection, or to snatch us away from those who may need our counsel and protection. I do not see how any person, capable of reflection, can live easily and fearlessly in these circumstances, unless he have a well-grounded confidence in the providing care of the Almighty, and a strong belief that his hand is in every event, and that it is a hand of mercy. The chances and changes of mortal life are so many and various, that a person cannot possibly fortify himself against the contingencies of futurity without some such hold as this, on which to repose amidst the contending gales of doubt and apprehension. This I say as affecting the present life — our views of the future can never be *secure*, they can never be comfortable or calm, without a solid faith in the Redeemer. Men may reason about the divine benevolence, the certainty of a future state, and the probable means of propitiating the Great Judge; but their speculations will only entangle them in the mazes of doubt, perplexity, and alarm, unless they found their hopes on that basis which shall outstand the tide of ages. If we take this away, the poor bark of mortality loses its only stay, and we steer at random, we know not how, we know not whither: the religion of Jesus Christ is strength to the weak, and wisdom to the unwise. It requires no preparative of learning nor study, but is, if possible, more obvious and easy to the illiterate than to the erudite. No man, therefore, has any excuse if he neglect it. The way is plain before him, and he is invited to enter. He has only to kneel at the foot of the cross, and cry, with the poor publican, "Lord, have mercy upon me, a miserable sinner" If he do this, and examine his own heart, and mortify the body of sin within him, as far as he is able, humbly and earnestly imploring the assistance of God's Holy Spirit, we cannot doubt but he will meet with the appro-

bation and assistance of the Almighty. In this path we must all tread. In this path I hope that you, my dear sister, are now proceeding. You have children; to whom can you commit them, should Providence call you hence, with more confidence than the meek and benevolent Jesus? What legacy can you leave them more certainly profitable, than the prayers of a pious mother? And if, taught by your example, as well as by your instructions, they should become themselves patterns of a holy and religious life, how sweetly will the evening of your days shine upon your head, as you behold them treading in those ways which you know by experience to be ways of pleasantness and peace! I need not press this subject; I know you feel all that I say, and more than I can express. I only fear that the bustle of family cares, as well as many anxieties of mind on other accounts, should too much divert you from these important objects. Let me only remind you, that the prayers of the afflicted are particularly acceptable to God. The sigh of the penitent is not too light to reach his ear. The eye of God is fixed as intently upon your soul at all times, as it is upon the revolution of the heavenly bodies, and the regulation of systems. God surveys all things, and he contemplates them with perfect attention; and, consequently, he is as intently conversant about the smallest as about the greatest things. For if he were not as perfectly intent on the soul of an individual being as he is about the general concerns of the universe, then he would do one thing less perfectly than another: which is impossible in God.

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TO HIS MOTHER.

St. John's, July 9th, 1806

MY DEAR MOTHER,

I HAVE scarcely time to write you a long letter, but the pleasing nature of my intelligence will, I hope, make up for its shortness.

After a week's examination, I am decided to be the first man of my year at St. John's, an honour I had scarcely hoped for, since my reading has been so very broken and interrupted. The contest was very stiff, and the men all acquitted themselves very well. We had thirteen men in the *first class*, though there are seldom more than six or eight who attain that rank in common.

I have learned also, that I am a prize-man in classical composition, though I do not yet know whereabouts I stand. It is reported that here too I am first.

Before it was known that I was the first man, Mr. Catton, our college-tutor, told me that he was so satisfied with the manner in which I had passed through the examination, that if I chose to stay up during the summer, I should have a private tutor in the mathematics, and that it should be no expense to me. I could not hesitate at such a proposal, especially as he did not limit the time for my keeping the private tutor, but will probably continue it as long as I like. You may estimate the value of this favour, when I tell you that a private tutor, for the whole vacation, will cost the college at least twelve or fourteen guineas, and that during term-time they receive ten guineas the term.

I cannot of course leave the college this summer, even for a week, and shall therefore miss the pleasure of seeing my aunt G—— at Nottingham. I have written to her.

It gave me much pleasure to observe the joy all the men seemed to feel at my success. I had been on a water excursion, with a clergyman in the neighbourhood, and some ladies, and just got home, as the

men were assembling for supper: you can hardly conceive with what pleasure they all flocked round me, with the most hearty congratulations; and I found that many of them had been seeking me all over the college, in order to be the first to communicate the good tidings.

* * * *

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

St John's, July, 1806.

MY DEAR NEVILLE,

* * * *

I AM going to spend a week or ten days at the house of a clergyman in this neighbourhood, whose name is T * *: he is a very pleasant and very clever man; has a most charming family, and a no less charming house; so that I expect my visit will be very pleasant. He has twelve pupils (who pay him 1200*l.* per annum): but his family is so well regulated, and his house so large, that you scarcely perceive any inconvenience from them.

I read very moderately, and am in better health than I have been ever since I came to Cambridge.

My mother and sister have been urging me to take a hint, let out by Mr. C * * and Mr. S *, about the Free School, which they seem inclined to confer on some person not a clergyman. It is not likely that I should give up the ministry for a school. If, however, they would allow me to take orders, at the end of two years, which is the soonest I could do it, I should leave the University, and run the risk of getting ordained. Indeed, the risk would be none, as I could keep my terms at Cambridge, and get a degree, without its interfering with my duties as a schoolmaster. The place is 300*l.* per annum; and, I think, I could make it 500*l.*

* * * *

TO MR. B. MADDOCK.

St. John's, July, 1805.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I HAVE good and very bad news to communicate to you. Good, that Mr Catton has given me an exhibition, which makes me up a clear income of 65*l.* per annum, and that I am consequently more than independent; bad, that I have been very ill, notwithstanding regular and steady exercise. Last Saturday morning I rose early, and got up some rather abstruse problems in mechanics for my tutor; spent an hour with him; between eight and nine got my breakfast, and read the Greek History (*at breakfast*) till ten; then sat down to decypher some logarithm tables. I think I had not done any thing at them, when I lost myself. At a quarter past eleven my landress found me bleeding in four different places in my face and head, and insensible. I got up, and staggered about the room; and she, being frightened, ran away, and told my Gyp to fetch a surgeon. Before he came, I was sallying out with my flannel gown on, and my academical gown over it; he made me put on my coat, and then I went to Mr Farish's: he opened a vein, and my recollection returned. My own idea was, that I had fallen out of bed, and so I told Mr Farish at first; but I afterwards remembered that I had been to Mr Fiske, and breakfasted.

Mr. Catton has insisted on my consulting Sir Isaac Pennington; and the consequence is, that I am to go through a course of blistering, &c., which, after the bleeding, will leave me weak enough.

I am, however, very well, except as regards the doctors, and yesterday I drove into the country to Saffron Walden in a gig. My tongue is in a bad condition, from a bite which I gave it either in my fall, or in the moments of convulsion. My nose has also come badly off. I believe I fell against my reading-desk. My other wounds are only rubs and scratches on the carpet.

I am ordered to remit my studies for a while, by the common advice both of doctors and tutors. Dr. Pennington hopes to prevent any recurrence of the fit. He thinks it looks towards epilepsy, of the horrors of which malady I have a very full and precise idea; and I only pray that God will spare me as respects my faculties, however else it may seem good to him to afflict me. Were I my own master, I know how I should act; but I am tied here by bands which I cannot burst. I know that change of place is needful; but I must not indulge in the idea. The college must not pay my tutor for nothing. Dr. Pennington and Mr. Farish attribute the attack to a too continued tension of the faculties. As I am much alone now, I never get quite off study, and I think incessantly. I know nature will not endure this. They both proposed my going home: but Mr. * * did not hint at it, although much concerned; and, indeed, I know home would be a bad place for me *in my* present situation. I look round for a resting-place, and I find none. Yet there is one, which I have long too, too much disregarded; and thither I must now betake myself. There are many situations worse than mine, and I have no business to complain. If these afflictions should draw the bonds tighter which hold me to my Redeemer, it will be well.

You may be assured that you have here a plain statement of my case, in its true colours, without any palliation. I am now well again, and have only to fear a relapse, which I shall do all I can to prevent, by a relaxation in study.

I have now written too much.

I am, very sincerely, yours,

H. K. WHITE.

P.S. I charge you, as you value my peace, not to let my friends hear, either directly or indirectly, of my illness.

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE

St. John's, 30th July, 1805

MY DEAR NEVILLE,

I had deferred sitting down to write to you until I should have leisure to send you a very long letter, but as that time seems every day farther off, I shall beg your patience no longer, but fill my sheet as well as I can.

I must first reply to your queries. I beg pardon for having omitted to mention the receipt of the * * * ; but, as I acknowledged the receipt of the parcel, I concluded that you would understand me to mean its contents as specified in your letter. But I know the accuracy of a man of business too well to think your caution strange. As to the college prizes, I have the satisfaction of telling you that I am entitled to two, viz the first for the general examination, and one of the first for the classical composition. I say *one* of the first on this account—I am put equal with two others at the top of the list. In this contest I had all the men of the three years to contend with; and, as both my equals are my seniors in standing, I have no reason to be dissatisfied.

* * * *

The Rhetoric Lecturer sent me one of my Latin Essays to copy, for the purpose of inspection; a compliment which was paid to none of the rest.

* * * *

We three are the only men who are honoured with prizes, so that we have cut four or five Eton men, who are always boasting of their classical ability.

With regard to your visit here, I think you had better come in term time, as the university is quite empty, and *stagers* have nothing but the buildings to gaze at. If, however, you can come more conveniently now than hereafter, I would advise you not to let this circumstance prevent you. I shall be glad to see Mr. * * with you. You may spend a few days very pleasantly here, even in vacation.

time, though you will scarcely meet a gownsman in the streets.

I thought the matter over about * * * *, but I do not think I have any influence here. Being myself a young man, I cannot, with any chance of success, attempt to *direct* even that interest which I may claim with others.

* * * *

The university is the worst place in the world for making interest. The great mass of men are themselves busily employed in wriggling themselves into places and livings; and there is, in general, too much anxiety for No. 1. to permit any interference for a neighbour, No. 2.

* * * *

TO HIS MOTHER.

St. John's, Aug. 1806.

MY DEAR MOTHER,

I HAVE no hesitation in declining the free-school, on the ground of its precluding the exercise of the ministerial duties. I shall take the liberty of writing Mr. ——— to thank him for having thought of me, and to recommend to his notice Mr. ———.

* * * *

But do not fret yourself, my dear mother; in a few years we shall, I hope, be in happier circumstances. I am not too sanguine in my expectations, but I shall certainly be able to assist you, and my sisters, in a few years. * * * *. As for Maria and Kate, if they succeed well in their education, they may, perhaps, be able to keep a school of a superior kind, where the profits will be greater, and the labour less. I even hope that this may not be necessary; and that you, my father, and they, may come and live with me when I get a parsonage. You would be pleased to see how comfortably Mr. ——— lives with his mother and sisters, at a snug little rectory

about ten miles from Cambridge. So much for castle-building.

* * * *

TO MR. * * *.

St. John's, Aug. 15th, 1806

MY GOOD FRIEND,

I HAVE deferred writing to you until my return from Mr. ———'s, knowing how much you would like to hear from me in respect to that dear family. I am afraid your patience has been tried by this delay, and I trust to this circumstance alone as my excuse.

My hours have seldom flowed so agreeably as they did at S——, nor perhaps have I made many visits which have been more profitable to me in a religious sense. The example of Mr. ——— will, I hope, stimulate me to a faithful preparation for the sacred office to which I am destined. I say a *faithful* preparation, because I fear I am apt to deceive myself with respect to my present pursuits, and to think I am only labouring for the honour of God, when I am urging literary labours to a degree inconsistent with duty and my real interests. Mr ——— is a good and careful pastor, my heart has seldom been so full as when I have accompanied him to the chambers of the sick, or have heard his affectionate addresses to the attentive crowd, which fills his school-room on Sunday evening — He is so earnest, and yet so sober; so wise, and yet so simple! You, my dear R——, are now very nearly approaching to the sacred office, and I sincerely pray that you may be stimulated to follow after the pattern of our excellent friend. You may have Mr ———'s zeal, but you will need his learning and his judgment to temper it. Remember, that it is a work of much more self-denial, for a man of active habits to submit to a course of patient study, than to suffer many privations for Christ's sake. In the latter the heart is warmly interested: the other is

the slow and unsatisfactory labour of the head, tedious in its progress, and uncertain in its produce. Yet there is a pleasure, great and indescribable pleasure, in *sanctified* study: the more wearisome the toil, the sweeter will it be to those who sit down with a subdued and patient spirit, content to undergo much tedium and fatigue, for the honour of God's ministry. Reading, however dry, soon becomes interesting, if we pursue it with a resolute spirit of investigation, and a determinate purpose of thoroughly mastering what we are about. You cannot take up the most tiresome book, on the most tiresome subject, and read it with fixed attention for an hour, but you feel a desire to go on, and here I would exhort you, whatever you read, read it accurately and thoroughly, and never to pass over any thing, however minute, which you do not quite comprehend. This is the only way to become really learned, and to make your studies satisfactory and productive. If I were capable of directing your course of reading, I should recommend you to peruse Butler's Analogy, Warburton's Divine Legation, Prideaux and Shuckford's Connections, and Milner's Church History, century for century, along with Mosheim's Ecclesiastical History. The latter is learned, concise, clear, and written in good scholastic Latin. Study the Chronology of the Old Testament; and as a means of making it interesting, trace out the completion of the prophecies. Read your Greek Testament with the nicest accuracy, tracing every word to its root, and seeking out the full force of particular expressions, by reference both to Parkhurst and Scapula. The derivations of words will throw great light on many parts of the New Testament: thus, if we know that the word *διάκονος*, a deacon, comes from *δια* and *κόνω*, to bustle about in the dust, we shall have a fuller notion of the humility of those who held the office in the primitive church. In reading the Old Testament, wherever you find a passage obscure, turn to the Septuagint, which will often clear up a place, better than fifty commentators. Thus, in

Joel, the day of the Lord is called "*a day of gloominess, a day of darkness, and of clouds, like the morning spread upon the mountains,*" which is a contradiction. Looking at the Septuagint, we find that the passage is mispointed, and that the latter metaphor is applied to the *people*. "A people great and strong, like the morning spread upon the mountains." The Septuagint is very easy Greek, quite as much so as the Greek Testament; and a little practice of this kind will help you in your knowledge of the language, and make you a good critic. I perceive your English style is very unpolished, and I think this a matter of *great* moment. I should recommend you to read, and imitate as nearly as you can, the serious papers in the eighth volume of the Spectator, particularly those on the Ubiquity of the Deity. Accustom yourself to write down your thoughts, and to polish the style some time after composition, when you have forgotten the expression. Aim at conciseness, neatness, and clearness; never make use of *fine* or *vulgar* words. Avoid every epithet which does not add *greatly* to the idea, for every addition of this kind, if it do not strengthen, weakens the sentiment; and be cautious never to express by two words, what you can do as well by one; a multiplicity of words only hides the sense, just as a superabundance of clothes does the shape. Thus much for studies

* * * *

I recommend you to pause, and consider *much* and well on the subject of matrimony. You have heard my sentiments with regard to a *rich* wife; but I am much too young, and too great an enthusiast, to be even a tolerable counsellor on a point like this. You must think for yourself, and consult with prudent and pious people, whose years have taught them the wisdom of the present world, and whose experience has instructed them in that of the world to come. But a little sober *thought* is worth a world of advice. You have, however, an infallible adviser, and to his directions you may safely look. To him I commend all your ways

I have one observation to make, which I hope you will forgive in me; it is, that you fall in love too readily. I have no notion of a man's having a certain species of affection for *two* women at once. I am afraid you let your admiration outrun your judgment in the outset, and then comes the *dé-nouement* and its attendants, disappointment and disgust. Take good heed you do not do this in marriage; for if you do, there will be great risk of your making shipwreck of your hopes. Be content to learn a woman's good qualities as they gradually reveal themselves; and do not let your imagination adorn her with virtues and charms to which she has no pretension. I think there is often a little disappointment after marriage—our angels turn out to be mere Eves: but the true way of avoiding, or, at least, lessening this inconvenience, is to estimate the object of our affections really as she is, without deceiving *ourselves*, and injuring *her*, by elevating her above her sphere. This is the way to be happy in marriage; for upon this plan our partners will be continually breaking in upon us, and delighting us with some new discovery of excellence; while, upon the other plan, we shall always be finding that the reality falls short of what we had so fondly and so foolishly imagined.

Be very sedulous and very patient in your studies. You would shudder at the idea of obtruding yourself on the sacred office in a condition rather to disgrace than to adorn it. St. Paul is earnest in admonishing Timothy to give attention to reading: and that holy apostle himself quotes from several of the best authors among the Greeks. His style is also very elegant, and polished on occasion. *He*, therefore, did not think the graces of composition beneath his attention, as some foolish and ignorant preachers of the present day are apt to do. I have written a longer letter to you than I expected, and I must now therefore say, good bye.

I am,

Very affectionately yours,

H. K. WHITE.

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

St John's, Aug 12th, 1806

DEAR NEVILLE,

I CAN but just manage to tell you, by this post, what I am sure you will be glad to learn, even at the expense of seven-pence for an empty sheet, that Mr. Catton has given me an exhibition, which makes my whole income sixty guineas a year. My last term's bill was 13*l.* 13*s.*, and I had 7*l.* 12*s.* to receive, but the expenses of this vacation will leave me bare until Christmas.

I have the pleasure of not having solicited either this or any other of the favours which Mr Catton has so liberally bestowed upon me: and though I have been the possessor of this exhibition ever since March last, yet Mr. Catton did not hint it to me until this morning, when he gave me my bill

I have, of course, signified to Mr. Simeon, that I shall have no need whatever of the stipend which I have hitherto received through his hands. He was extremely kind on the occasion, and indeed his conduct towards me has ever been *fatherly*. It was Mr. * * * who allowed me 20*l.* per annum, and Mr. Simeon added 10*l.* He told me, that my conduct gave him the most heartfelt joy, that I was so generally respected, without having made any compliances, as he understood, or having, in any instance, concealed my principles. Indeed, this is a praise which I may claim, though I never conceived that it was at all an object of praise. I have always taken some pains to let those around me know my religious sentiments, as a saving of trouble, and as a mark of that independence of opinion, which, I think, every one ought to assert: and as I have produced my opinions with frankness and modesty, and supported them (if attacked) with coolness and candour, I have never found them any impediment to my acquaintance with any person whose acquaintance I coveted.

TO MR. R. W. A.

St. John's, Aug. 26th, 1806.

DEAR A

I AM glad to hear of your voyages and travels through various regions, and various seas, both of this island, and its little suckling the Isle of Wight

Many hair's breadth 'escapes and perilous adventures you must needs have had; and many a time, on the extreme shores of the south, must you have looked up with the eye of intelligent curiosity, to see whether the same moon shone *there* as in the pleasant, but now far distant groves of Colwick. And now, my very wise and travelled friend, seeing that your head is yet upon your shoulders, and your neck in its right natural position, and seeing that, after all the changes and chances of a long journey, and after being banged from post to pillar, and from pillar to post, seeing, I say, that after all this, you are safely housed once more under your paternal roof, what think you, if you were to indulge your mind as much as you have done your eyes and gaping muscles? A few trips to the fountains of light and colour, or to the regions of the good lady who *χρῆσι ἀθάλοις δίδναι ἔξοχρον πέτον*, a ramble down the Galaxy, and a few peeps on the *unconfined* confines (*πέτραι ἄπειρον, ὅτιεν αὐτίον, εἶον ἔ βιώτων*) of infinite space, would prove, perhaps, as delectable to your immaterial part, as the delicious see-saw of a post-chaise was to your corporeal; or if these æthærial, aeronautical, mathematical volutations should displease you, perhaps it would not be amiss to saunter a few weeks on the site of Troy, or to lay out plans of ancient history on the debateable ground of the Peloponnesians and Athenians. There is one Thucydides, who lives near, who will tell you all about the places you visit, and the great events connected with them: he is a sententious old fellow, very shrewd in his remarks, and speaks, moreover, very excellent Greek, at your service. I know not whether you have met with any guide in the course of your bodily travels who

can be compared to him. If you should make Rome in your way, either there or back, I should like to give you a letter of introduction to an old friend of mine, whose name is Livy, who, as far as his memory extends, will amuse you with pretty stories and some true history. There is another honest fellow enough, to whom I dare not recommend you, he is so very crabbed and tart, and speaks so much in epigrams and enigmas, that I am afraid he would teach you to talk as unintelligibly as himself. I do not mean to give you any more *advice*, but I have one *exhortation*, which I hope you will take in good part; it is this, that if you *set out* on this journey, you would please to proceed to *its end* - for I have been acquainted with *some young men*, who have turned their faces towards Athens or Rome, and trudged on manfully for a few miles, but when they had travelled till they grew weary, and worn out a good pair of shoes, have suddenly become disheartened, and returned without any recompence for their pains.

And now let me assume a more serious strain, and exhort you to cultivate your mind with the utmost assiduity. You are at a critical period of your life, and the habits which you now form will, most probably, adhere to you through life. If they be idle habits, I am sure they will.

But even the cultivation of your mind is of minor importance to that of your heart, your temper, and disposition. Here I have need not to *preach*, but to *learn*. You have had less to encounter in your religious progress than I have; and your progress has been therefore greater, greater even than your superior faculties would have warranted. I have had to fight hard with vanity at home, and applause abroad: no wonder that my vessel has been tossed about; but greater wonder that it is yet *upon* the waves. I exhort you to pray with me, (and I entreat you to pray *for* me,) that we may both weather out the storm, and arrive in the haven of sound tranquillity, even on this side the grave.

We have all particular reason to watch and pray,

lest self too much predominate. We should accustom ourselves to hold our own comforts and conveniences as subordinate to the comforts and conveniences of others in all things: and a habit thus begun in little matters, might probably be extended without difficulty to those of a higher nature.

* * * *

TO MR. B. MADDOCK.

St. John's, 14th Sept 1806.

MY DEAR BEN,

I CAN scarcely write more to you now than just to calm your uneasiness on my account. I am perfectly well again, and have experienced no recurrence of the fit: my spirits too are better, and I read very moderately. I hope that God will be pleased to spare his rebellious child, this stroke has brought me nearer to Him: whom indeed have I for my comforter but Him?

I am still reading, but with moderation, as I have been during the whole vacation, whatever you may persist in thinking.

My heart turns with more fondness towards the consolations of religion than it did, and in some degree I have *found* consolation. I still, however, conceive that it is my duty to pursue my studies temperately, and to fortify myself with Christian resignation and calmness for the worst. I am much wanting in these virtues, and, indeed, in all Christian virtues; but I know how desirable they are, and I long for them. Pray that I may be strengthened and enlightened, and that I may be enabled to go where duty bids, wherever that be.

* * * *

TO MR. B. MADDOCK.

St. John's, Cambridge, 22d Sept. 1807

MY DEAR FRIEND,

* * * *

You charge me with an accession of gallantry of late; I plead guilty I really began to think of marriage (very prematurely, you'll say), but if I experience any repetition of *this*, I shall drop the idea of it for ever. It would be folly and cruelty to involve another in all the horrors of such a calamity

I thank you for your kind exhortations to a complete surrender of my heart to God, which are contained in your letter. In this respect I have betrayed the most deplorable weakness and indecision of character. I know what the truth is, and I love it; but I still go on giving myself half to God, and half to the world, as if I expected to enjoy the comforts of religion along with the vanities of life. If, for a short time, I keep up a closer communion with God, and feel my whole bosom bursting with sorrow and tenderness as I approach the footstool of my Saviour, I soon relapse into indifference, worldly-mindedness, and sin; my devotions become listless and perfunctory: I dote on the world, its toys, and its corruptions, and am mad enough to be willing to sacrifice the happiness of eternity to the deceitful pleasures of the passing moment. My heart is indeed a lamentable sink of loathsome corruption and hypocrisy. In consistency with my professed opinions, I am often obliged to talk on subjects of which I know but little in experience, and to rank myself with those who have felt, what I only approve from my head, and, perhaps, esteem from my heart. I often start with horror and disgust from myself, when I consider how deeply I have imperceptibly gone into this species of simulation. Yet I think my love for the Gospel, and its professors, is sincere; only I am insincere in suffering persons to entertain an high opinion of me as a

child of God, when indeed I am an alien from him. On looking over *some private memorandums*, which were written at various times in the course of the two last years, I beheld, with inexpressible anguish, that my progress has, if any thing, been retrograde. I am still as dark, still as cold, still as ignorant, still as fond of the world, and have still fewer desires after holiness. I am very, very dissatisfied with myself, and yet I am not prompted to earnest prayer. I have been so often earnest, and always have fallen away, that I go to God without hope, without faith. Yet I am not *totally* without hope; I know God will have my whole heart, and I know, when I give him *that*, I shall experience the light of his countenance with a permanency. I pray that he would assist my weakness, and grant me some portion of his grace, in order that I may overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil, to which I have long, very long, been a willing, though an unhappy slave. Do you pray earnestly with me, and for me, in these respects; I know the prayers of the faithful avail much; and when you consider with what great temptations I am surrounded, and how very little strength I have wherewith to resist them, you will feel with me the necessity of earnest supplication, and fervent intercession, lest I should be lost, and cast away for ever.

I shall gladly receive your spiritual advice and directions. I have gone on *too long* in coldness and unconcern; who knows whether, if I neglect the present hour, the day of salvation may not be gone by for ever!!

* * * *

TO MR. JOHN CHARLESWORTH.

St. John's, 22d Sept. 1806.

MY DEAR CHARLESWORTH,

THANK you for taking the blame of our neglected correspondence on your own shoulders. I thought

it rested elsewhere. Thrice have I begun to write to you ; once in Latin, and twice in English , and each time have the fates opposed themselves to the completion of my design. But however, *pax sit reclus*, we are naturally disposed to forgive, because we are, as far as intention goes, mutual offenders

I thank you for your invitation to Clapham, which came at a fortunate juncture, since I had just settled with my tutor that I should pay a visit to my brother in London this week. I shall, of course, see you ; and shall be happy to spend a few days with you at Clapham, and to rhapsodise on your common. It gives me pleasure to hear you are settled, and I give you many hearty good wishes for practice and prosperity. I hope you will soon find that a wife is a very necessary article of enjoyment in a domesticated state, for how indeed should it be otherwise ? A man cannot cook his dinner while he is employed in earning it. Housekeepers are complete *helluones rei familiaris*, and not only pick your pockets, but abuse you into the bargain. While a wife, on the contrary, both cooks your dinner, and enlivens it with her society ; receives you after the toils of the day with cheerfulness and smiles, and is not only the faithful guardian of your treasury, but the soother of your cares, and the alleviator of your calamities. Now, am I not very poetical ? But on such a subject who would not be poetical ? A wife ! — a domestic fire-side, — the cheerful assiduities of love and tenderness ! It would inspire a Dutch burgomaster ! and if, with all this in your grasp, you shall still choose the *pulsare terram pede libero*, still avoid the *irrupta copula*, still deem it a matter of light regard to be an object of affection and fondness to an amiable and sensible woman, why then you deserve to be a fellow of a college all your days, to be kicked about in your last illness by a saucy and careless bed-maker ; and, lastly, to be put in the ground in your college chapel, followed only by the man who is to be your successor. Why, man, I dare no more *dicam* that I shall ever have it in my power to have a wife, than that I shall be Archbishop of Canterbury, and Pri-

mate of all England. A suite of rooms in a still and quiet corner of old St. John's, which was once occupied by a crazy monk, or by one of the translators of the Bible in the days of good king James, must form the boundary of my ambition. I must be content to inhabit walls which never echoed with a female voice, to be buried in glooms which were never cheered with a female smile. It is said, indeed, that women were sometimes permitted to visit St. John's, when it was a monastery of White-Friars, in order to be present at particular religious ceremonies; but the good monks were careful to sprinkle holy water wherever their profane footsteps had carried contagion and pollution.

It is well that you are free from the restrictions of monastic austerity, and that, while I sleep under the shadow of towers and lofty walls, and the safeguard of a vigilant porter, you are permitted to inhabit your own cottage, under your own guardianship, and to listen to the sweet accents of domestic affection.

Yes, my very Platonic, or rather Stoical friend, I must see you safely bound in the matrimonial noose, and then like a confirmed bachelor, ten years hence, I shall have the satisfaction of pretending "wrought at, while in my heart, I envy you. So much for rhapsody. I am coming to London for relaxation's sake, and shall take it pretty freely; that is, I shall seek after fine sights—stare at fine people—be cheerful with the gay—foolish with the simple—and leave as little room to suspect as possible that I am (any thing of) a philosopher and mathematician. I shall probably talk a little Greek, but it will be by stealth, in order to excite no suspicion.

I shall be in town on Friday or Saturday. I am in a very idle mood, and have written you a very idle letter, for which I entreat your pardon; and I am,

Dear C——,

Very sincerely yours,

H. K. WHITE.

TO HIS BROTHER NEVILLE.

(FOUND IN HIS POCKET AFTER HIS DECEASE.)

St. John's College, Saturday, Oct. 11, 1806

DEAR NEVILLE,

I AM safely arrived, and in college, but my illness has increased upon me much. The cough continues, and is attended with a good deal of fever. I am under the care of Mr. Farish, and entertain very little apprehension about the cough, but my exertions in town have reduced me to a state of much debility; and, until the cough be gone, I cannot be permitted to take any strengthening medicines. This places me in an awkward predicament; but I think I perceive a degree of expectoration this morning, which will soon relieve me, and then I shall mend apace.

Under these circumstances, I must not expect to see you here at present: when I am a little recovered, it will be a pleasant relaxation to me

* * * *

Our lectures began on Friday, but I do not attend them until I am better. I have not written to my mother, nor shall I while I remain unwell. You will tell her, as a reason, that our lectures began on Friday. I know she will be uneasy, if she do not hear from me, and still more so if I tell her I am ill.

I cannot write more at present, than that I am,

Your truly affectionate brother,

H. K. WHITE

HINTS, &c.

Why will not men be contented with appearing what they are? As sure as we attempt to pass for what we are not, we make ourselves ridiculous. With religious professors, this ought to be a consideration of importance; for when we assume credit for what we do not possess, we break the laws of God in more ways than we are aware of: vanity and deceit are both implicated.

Why art thou so disquieted, O my soul, and why so full of heaviness? O put thy trust in God; for I will yet thank him which is the help of my countenance, and my God. *Ps. xlii.*

Domine Jesu! in te speravi, miserere mei! Ne sperne animum miserrimi peccatoris.

The love of Christ is the only source from whence a Christian can hope to derive spiritual happiness and peace. Now the love of Christ will not reside in the bosom already pre-occupied with the love of the world, or any other predominating affection. We must give up every thing for it, and we know it deserves that distinction; yet, upon this principle, unless the energy of divine grace, were what it is, mighty and irresistible, who would be saved?

The excellence of our liturgy, and our establishment, is more and more impressed upon my mind; how admirable do her confessions, her penitentiary offerings, her intercessions, her prayers, suit with the case of the Christian! It is a sign that a man's heart is not right with God, when he finds fault with the liturgy.

Contempt of religion is distinct from unbelief: unbelief may be the result of proud reasonings, and independent research; but contempt of the Christian doctrine must proceed from profound ignorance.

Lord, give me a heart to turn all knowledge to thy glory, and not to mine: keep me from being deluded with the lights of vain philosophy; keep me from

the pride of human reason ; let me not think my own thoughts, nor dream my own imaginations ; but, in all things acting under the good guidance of the Holy Spirit, may I live in all simplicity, humility, and singleness of heart, unto the Lord Jesus Christ, now and for ever more. Amen

[The above prayer was prefixed to a manual, or memorandum-book.]

A PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY Father, at the close of another day I kneel before thee in supplication, and ere I compose my body to sleep, I would steal a few moments from weariness, to lift up my thoughts to thy perfections, to meditate on thy wonderful dispensations, and to make my request known unto thee.

Although the hours of this day have not been spent in the busy haunts of society, but in the pursuit of needful and godly knowledge, yet I am conscious that my thoughts and actions have been far from pure ; and many vain and foolish speculations, many sinful thoughts and ambitious anticipations, have obtruded themselves on my mind. I know that I have felt pleasure in what I ought to have abhorred, and that I have not had thy presence continually in mind ; so that my ghostly enemy has mixed poison with my best food, and sowed tares with the good seed of instruction. Sometimes, too, the world has had too much to do with my thoughts : I have longed for its pleasures, its splendours, its honours, and have forgotten that I am a poor follower of Jesus Christ, whose inheritance is not in this land, but in the fields above. I do, therefore, supplicate and beseech thee, Oh ! thou, my God and Father, that thou wilt not only forgive these my wanderings, but that thou wilt chasten my heart, and establish my affections, so that they may not be shaken by the light suggestions of the tempter Satan ; and since I am of myself very weak, I implore

thy restraining hand upon my understanding, that I may not reason in the pride of worldly wisdom, nor flatter myself on my attainments, but ever hold my judgment in subordination to thy word, and see myself as what I am, an helpless dependant on thy bounty. If a spirit of indolence and lassitude have at times crept on me, I pray thy forgiveness for it ; and if I have felt rather inclined to prosecute studies which procure respect from the world, than the humble knowledge which becomes a servant of Christ, do thou check this growing propensity, and only bless my studies so far as they conduce to thy glory, and as thy glory is their chief end. My heart, O Lord ! is but too fond of this vain and deceitful world, and I have many fears lest I should make shipwreck of my hope on the rocks of ambition and vanity. Give me, I pray thee, thy grace to repress these propensities : illumine more completely my wandering mind, rectify my understanding, and give me a simple, humble, and affectionate heart, to love thee and thy sheep with all sincerity. As I increase in learning, let me increase in lowliness of spirit : and inasmuch as the habits of studious life, unless tempered by preventing grace, but too much tend to produce formality and lifelessness in devotion, do thou, O heavenly Father, preserve me from all cold and speculative views of thy blessed Gospel ; and while with regular constancy I kneel down daily before thee, do not fail to light up the fire of heavenly love in my bosom, and to draw my heart heavenward with earnest longing [to thyself].

And now, O blessed Redeemer ! my rock, my hope, and only sure defence, to thee do I cheerfully commit both my soul and my body. If thy wise Providence see fit, grant that I may rise in the morning, refreshed with sleep, and with a spirit of cheerful activity for the duties of the day ; but whether I wake here or in eternity, grant that my trust in thee may remain sure, and my hope unshaken. Our Father, &c.

[This prayer was discovered amongst some dirty loose papers of H. K. W.'s]

Mem.

SEPTEMBER 22. 1806.

On running over the pages of this book, I am constrained to observe, with sorrow and shame, that my progress in divine light has been little or none

I have made a few conquests over my corrupt inclinations, but my heart still hankers after its old delights; still lingers half willing, half unwilling, in the ways of worldly-mindedness

My knowledge of divine things is very little improved. I have read less of the Scriptures than I did last year. In reading the Fathers, I have consulted rather the pride of my heart than my spiritual good

I now turn to the cause of these evils, and I find that the great root, the main-spring, is — love of the world; next to that, pride, next to that, spiritual sloth.

[This Memorandum was written a very few weeks before his death]

BY LORD BYRON.

UNHAPPY White! * while life was in its spring,
And thy young muse just waved her joyous wing,
The spoiler came, and all thy promise fair
Has sought the grave, to sleep for ever there.
Oh! what a noble heart was here undone,
When science 'self destroy'd her favourite son!

* Henry Kirke White died at Cambridge in October, 1806, in consequence of too much exertion in the pursuit of studies that would have matured a mind which disease and poverty could not impair, and which death itself destroyed rather than subdued. His poems abound in such beauties as must impress the reader with the liveliest regret that so short a period was allotted to talents, which would have dignified even the sacred functions he was destined to assume

Yes! she too much indulged thy fond pursuit,
 She sow'd the seeds, but death has reap'd the fruit.
 'Twas thine own genius gave the final blow,
 And help'd to plant the wound that laid thee low.
 So the struck eagle, stretch'd upon the plain,
 No more through rolling clouds to soar again,
 View'd his own feather on the fatal dart,
 And wing'd the shaft that quiver'd in his heart.
 Keen were his pangs, but keener far to feel,
 He nursed the pinion which impell'd the steel;
 While the same plumage that had warm'd his nest,
 Drank the last life-drop of his bleeding breast.

LINES

BY PROFESSOR SMYTH OF CAMBRIDGE,

On a Monument, erected by an American Gentleman, in All Saints' Church, Cambridge, to the Memory of*

HENRY KIRKE WHITE.

WARR with fond hope, and learning's sacred flame,
 To Granta's bowers the youthful poet came;
 Unconquer'd powers th' immortal mind display'd,
 But worn with anxious thought, the frame decay'd -
 Pale o'er his lamp, and in his cell retired,
 The martyr student faded and expired
 Oh! genius, taste, and piety sincere,
 Too early lost, 'midst studies too severe!
 Foremost to mourn, was gen'rous Southey seen,
 He told the tale, and show'd what White had been,
 Nor told in vain — Far o'er th' Atlantic wave
 A wanderer came, and sought the poet's grave;
 On yon low stone, he saw his lonely name,
 And raised this fond memorial to his fame.

* The monument is executed by S. Chantry, Esq R. A.

POEMS.

POEMS,

WRITTEN BEFORE THE PUBLICATION OF
CLIFTON GROVE.

CHILDHOOD. A POEM.

This is one of Henry's earliest productions, and appears, by the hand writing, to have been written when he was between fourteen and fifteen. The picture of the school-mistress is from nature

PART I

PICTURED in memory's mellowing glass, how sweet
Our infant days, our infant joys to greet ;
To roam in fancy in each cherish'd scene,
The village church-yard, and the village-green,
The woodland walk remote, the greenwood glade, 5
The mossy seat beneath the hawthorn's shade,
The white-wash'd cottage, where the woodbine grew,
And all the favourite haunts our childhood knew !
How sweet, while all the evil shuns the gaze,
To view th' unclouded skies of former days ! 10

Beloved age of innocence and smiles,
When each wing'd hour some new delight beguiles.
When the gay heart, to life's sweet day-spring true,
Still finds some insect pleasure to pursue.
Blest Childhood, hail ! — Thee simply will I sing, 15
And from myself the artless picture bring ;
These long-lost scenes to me the past restore,
Each humble friend, each pleasure now no more,

And every stump familiar to my sight
 Recalls some fond idea of delight. 20

This shrubby knoll was once my favourite seat ;
 Here did I love at evening to retreat,
 And muse alone, till, in the vault of night,
 Hesper, aspiring, showed his golden light.
 Here once again, remote from human noise, 25
 I sit me down to think of former joys ;
 Pause on each scene, each treasured scene, once more,
 And once again each infant walk explore
 While as each grove and lawn I recognise, ,
 My melted soul suffuses in my eyes. 30

And oh ! thou Power, whose myriad trains resort
 To distant scenes, and picture them to thought ;
 Whose mirror, held unto the mourner's eye,
 Flings to his soul a borrow'd gleam of joy ;
 Blest memory, guide, with finger nicely true, 35
 Back to my youth my retrospective view ;
 Recall with faithful vigour to my mind,
 Each face familiar, each relation kind ;
 And all the finer traits of them afford,
 Whose general outline in my heart is stored. 40

In yonder cot, along whose mouldering walls,
 In many a fold the mantling woodbine falls,
 The village matron kept her little school,
 Gentle of heart, yet knowing well to rule ;
 Staid was the dame, and modest was her mien ; 45
 Her garb was coarse, yet whole, and nicely clean ;
 Her neatly border'd cap, as lily fair,
 Beneath her chin was pinn'd with decent care ;
 And pendant ruffles, of the whitest lawn,
 Of ancient make, her elbows did adorn. 50
 Faint with old age, and dim were grown her eyes,
 A pair of spectacles their want supplies ;
 These does she guard secure in leathern case,
 From thoughtless wights, in some unweeded place.

Here first I enter'd, though with toil and pain, 55
 The low vestibule of learning's fane ;

Enter'd with pain, yet soon I found the way,
 Though sometimes toilsome, many a sweet display.
 Much did I grieve on that ill-fated morn,
 While I was first to school reluctant borne : 60
 Severe I thought the dame, though oft she try'd
 To soothe my swelling spirits when I sigh'd :
 And oft, when harshly she reproved, I wept,
 To my lone corner broken-hearted crept,
 And thought of tender home where anger never
 Kept. 65

But soon inur'd to alphabetic toils,
 Alert I met the dame with jocund smiles!
 First at the form, my task for ever true,
 A little favourite rapidly I grew :
 And oft she stroked my head with fond delight, 70
 Held me a pattern to the dunce's sight ;
 And as she gave my diligence its praise,
 Talk'd of the honours of my future days.

Oh ! had the venerable matron thought
 Of all the ills by talent often brought ; 75
 Could she have seen me when revolving years
 Had brought me deeper in the vale of tears,
 Then had she wept, and wish'd my wayward fate
 Had been a lowlier, an unhappier state ;
 Wish'd that, remote from worldly woes and strife, 80
 Unknown, unheard, I might have pass'd through life.

Where, in the busy scene, by peace unblest,
 Shall the poor wanderer find a place of rest ?
 A lonely mariner on the stormy main,
 Without a hope, the calms of peace to gain ; 85
 Long toss'd by tempest o'er the world's wide shore,
 When shall his spirit rest to toil no more ?
 Not till the light foam of the sea shall lave
 The sandy surface of his unwept grave.
 Childhood, to thee I turn, from life's alarms, 90
 Serenest season of perpetual calms, —
 Turn with delight, and bid the passions cease,
 And joy to think with thee I tasted peace.

Sweet reign of innocence, when no crime defiles,
 But each new object brings attendant smiles ; 95
 When future evils never haunt the sight,
 But all is pregnant with unmixt delight ;
 To thee I turn from riot and from noise,
 Turn to partake of more congenial joys.

'Neath yonder elm, that stands upon the moor, 100
 When the clock spoke the hour of labour o'er,
 What clamorous throngs, what happy groupes were
 seen,

In various postures scatt'ring o'er the green !
 Some shoot the marble, others join the chase
 Of self-made stag, or run the emulous race ; 105
 While others, seated on the dappled grass,
 With doleful tales the light-wing'd minutes pass.
 Well I remember how, with gesture starch'd,
 A band of soldiers oft with pride we march'd ;
 For banners, to a tall ash we did bind 110
 Our handkerchiefs, flapping to the whistling wind ;
 And for our warlike arms we sought the mead,
 And guns and spears we made of brittle reed ;
 Then, in uncouth array, our seats to crown,
 We storm'd some ruin'd pig-stye for a town 115

Pleased with our gay disports, the dame was wont
 To set her wheel before the cottage front,
 And o'er her spectacles would often peer,
 To view our gambols, and our boyish geer.
 Still as she look'd, her wheel kept turning round, 120
 With its beloved monotony of sound.
 When tired with play, we'd set us by her side,
 (For out of school she never knew to chide) —
 And wonder at her skill — well known to fame —
 For who could match in spinning with the dame ? 125
 Her sheets, her linen, which she show'd with pride
 To strangers, still her thriftiness testified ;
 Though we poor wights did wonder much in troth,
 How 'twas her spinning manufactured cloth.

Oft would we leave, though well beloved, our play, 130
 To chat at home the vacant hour away.

Many's the time I've scamper'd down the glade,
 To ask the promised ditty from the maid,
 Which well she loved, as well she knew to sing,
 While we around her form'd a little ring : 133
 She told of innocence foredoom'd to bleed,
 Of wicked guardians bent on bloody deed,
 Or little children murder'd as they slept ;
 While at each pause we wrung our hands and wept.
 Sad was such tale, and wonder much did we, 140
 Such hearts of stone there in the world could be,
 Poor simple wights ! ah, little did we ween
 The ills that wait on man in life's sad scene !
 Ah, little thought that we ourselves should know,
 This world's a world of weeping and of woe ! 145

Beloved moment ! then 'twas first I caught
 The first foundation of romantic thought ,
 Then first I shed bold Fancy's thrilling tear,
 Then first that poesy charm'd mine infant ear.
 Soon stored with much of legendary lore, 150
 The sports of Childhood charm'd my soul no more,
 Far from the scene of gaiety and noise,
 Far, far from turbulent and empty joys,
 I hied me to the thick o'er-arching shade,
 And there, on mossy carpet, listless laid, 155
 While at my feet the rippling runnel ran,
 The days of wild romance antique I'd scan ;
 Soar on the wings of fancy through the air,
 To realms of light, and pierce the radiance there. 159

* * * * *

PART II.

THERE are, who think that Childhood does not share
 With age, the cup, the bitter cup of care :
 Alas ! they know not this unhappy truth,
 That every age, and rank, is born to ruth.

From the first dawn of reason in the mind, 5
 Man is foreloom'd the thorns of grief to find ;

At every step has further cause to know,
The draught of pleasure still is dash'd with woe. 2

Yet in the youthful breast for ever caught
With some new object for romantic thought, 10
The impression of the moment quickly flies,
And with the morrow every sorrow dies.

How different manhood!—then does Thought's control

Sink every pang still deeper in the soul;
Then keen Affliction's sad unceasing smart 15
Becomes a painful resident in the heart;
And Care, whom not the gayest can out-brave,
Pursues its feeble victim to the grave.
Then, as each long-known friend is summon'd hence,
We feel a void no joy can recompense, 20
And as we weep o'er every new-made tomb,
Wish that ourselves the next may meet our doom.

Yes, Childhood, thee no rankling woes pursue,
No forms of future ill salute thy view,
No pangs repentant bid thee wake to weep, 25
But halcyon peace protects thy downy sleep;
And sanguine Hope, through every storm of life,
Shoots her bright beams, and calms the internal
strife

Yet e'en round Childhood's heart, a thoughtless
shrine,

Affection's little thread will ever twine; 30
And though but frail may seem each tender tie,
The soul foregoes them but with many a sigh
Thus, when the long-expected moment came,
When forced to leave the gentle-hearted dame,
Reluctant throbblings rose within my breast, 35
And a still tear my silent grief express'd.

When to the public school compell'd to go,
What novel scenes did on my senses flow!
There in each breast each active power dilates!
Which broils whole nations, and convulses states:
There reigns by turns alternate, love and hate,
Ambition burns, and factious rebels prate;

And in a smaller range, a smaller sphere,
 'He dark deformities of man appear.
 Yet there the gentler virtues kindred claim, 45
 There Friendship lights her pure untainted flame,
 Ere mild Benevolence delights to dwell,
 And sweet Contentment rests without her cell;
 And there, 'mid many a stormy soul, we find
 The good of heart, the intelligent of mind 50

'Twas there, O George! with thee I learn'd to join
 In Friendship's bands — in amity divine
 O mournful thought! — Where is thy spirit now?
 Here I sit on fav'rite Logan's brow,
 And trace below each well-remember'd glade, 55
 Where arm in arm, erewhile with thee I stray'd.
 Where art thou laid — on what untrodden shore,
 Where naught is heard save Ocean's sullen roar?
 Dost thou in lowly, unlamented state,
 At last repose from all the storms of fate? 60
 Methinks I see thee struggling with the wave,
 Without one aiding hand stretch'd out to save;
 See thee convulsed, thy looks to heaven bend,
 And send thy parting sigh unto thy friend;
 Or where immeasurable wilds dismay, 65
 Forlorn and sad thou bend'st thy weary way,
 While sorrow and disease with anguish rise,
 Consume apace the ebbing springs of life
 Again I see his door against thee shut,
 The unfeeling native turn thee from his hut: 70
 I see thee spent with toil and worn with grief,
 Sit on the grass, and wish the long'd relief;
 Then lie thee down, the stormy struggle o'er,
 Think on thy native land — and rise no more!

Oh! that thou could'st, from thine august abode, 75
 Survey thy friend in life's dismaying road!
 What thou could'st see him at this moment here,
 A balm thy memory with a pious tear,
 Till I hover o'er him as he gazes round,
 Ere all the scenes of infant joys surround! 80

F Is! yes! his spirit's near! — The whispering breeze
 I move his voice sad sighing on the trees;

And lo ! his form transparent I perceive,
 Borne on the grey mist of the sullen eve :
 He hovers near, clad in the night's dim robe, 85
 While deathly silence reigns upon the globe.

Yet, ah ! whence comes this visionary scene ?
 'Tis Fancy's wild aerial dream I ween ;
 By her inspired, when reason takes its flight,
 What fond illusions beam upon the sight ! 90
 She waves her hand, and lo ! what forms appear !
 What magic sounds salute the wondering ear !
 Once more o'er distant regions do we tread,
 And the cold grave yields up its cherish'd dead ;
 While present sorrow 's banish'd far away, 95
 Unclouded azure glids the placid day,
 Or in the future's cloud-encircled face,
 Fair scenes of bliss to come we fondly trace,
 And draw minutely every little wile,
 Which shall the feathery hours of time beguile. 100

So when forlorn, and lonesome at her gate
 The Royal Mary solitary sate,
 And view'd the moon-beam trembling on the wave,
 And heard the hollow surge her prison lave,
 Towards France's distant coast she bent her sight, 105
 For there her soul had wing'd its longing flight ;
 There did she form full many a scheme of joy,
 Visions of bliss unclouded with alloy,
 Which bright through Hope's deceitful optics beam'd,
 And all became the surety which it seem'd ; 110
 She wept, yet felt, while all within was calm,
 In every tear a melancholy charm.

To yonder hill, whose sides, deform'd and steep,
 Just yield a scanty sust'nance to the sheep,
 With thee, my friend, I oftentimes have sped, 115
 To see the sun rise from his healthy bed ;
 To watch the aspect of the summer morn,
 Smiling upon the golden fields of corn,
 And taste delighted of superior joys,
 Beheld through Sympathy's enchanted eyes : 120
 With silent admiration oft we view'd
 The myriad hues o'er heav'n's blue concave strew'd ;

The fleecy clouds, of every tint and shade,
Round which the silvery sun-beam glancing play'd,
And the round orb itself, in azure throne, 125
Just peeping o'er the blue hill's ridgy zone ;
We mark'd delighted, how with aspect gay,
Reviving Nature hail'd returning day ;
Mark'd how the flowerets rear'd their drooping heads,
And the wild lambkins bounded o'er the meads, 130
While from each tree, in tones of sweet delight,
The birds sung pæans to the source of light :
Oft have we watch'd the speckled lark arise,
Leave his grass bed, and soar to kindred skies,
And rise, and rise, till the pain'd sight no more 135
Could trace him in his high aerial tour ;
Though on the ear, at intervals, his song
Came wafted slow the wavy breeze along ;
And we have thought how happy were our lot,
Bless'd with some sweet, some solitary cot, 140
Where, from the peep of day, till russet eve
Began in every dell her forms to weave,
We might pursue our sports from day to day,
And in each other's arms wear life away.

At sultry noon too, when our toils were done, 145
We to the gloomy glen were wont to run :
There on the turf we lay, while at our feet
The cooling rivulet rippled softly sweet :
And mused on holy theme, and ancient lore,
Of deeds, and days, and heroes now no more ; 150
Heard, as his solemn harp Isaiah swept,
Sung woe unto the wicked land — and wept :
Or, fancy-led, — saw Jeremiah mourn
In solemn sorrow o'er Judea's urn.
Then to another shore perhaps would rove, 155
With Plato talk in his Elysian grove ;
Or, wand'ring where the Thespian palace rose,
Weep once again o'er fair Jocasta's woes.

Sweet then to us was that romantic band,
The ancient legends of our native land — 160
Chivalric Britomart and Una fair,
And courteous Constance, doom'd to dark despair,

By turns our thoughts engaged ; and oft we talk'd
 Of times when monarch superstition stalk'd,
 And when the blood-fraught galliots of Rome 165
 Brought the grand Druid fabric to its doom :
 While, where the wood-hung Menai's waters flow,
 The hoary harpers pour'd the strain of woe.

While thus employ'd, to us how sad the bell
 Which summon'd us to school ! 'Twas Fancy's
 knell, 170

And, sadly sounding on the sullen ear,
 It spoke of study pale, and chilling fear.
 Yet even then, (for, Oh ! what chains can bind,
 What powers control, the energies of mind !)
 E'en then we soar'd to many a height sublime, 175
 And many a day-dream charm'd the lazy time.

At evening too, how pleasing was our walk,
 Endear'd by Friendship's unrestrained talk !
 When to the upland heights we bent our way,
 To view the last beam of departing day ; 180
 How calm was all around ! no playful breeze
 Sigh'd 'mid the wavy foliage of the trees,
 But all was still, save when, with drowsy song,
 The grey-fly wound his sullen horn along ;
 And save when, heard in soft, yet merry glee, 185
 The distant church-bells' mellow harmony ;
 The silver mirror of the lucid brook,
 That 'mid the tufted broom its still course took ;
 The rugged arch that clasp'd its silent tides,
 With moss and rank weeds hanging down its sides 190
 The craggy rock, that jutt'd on the sight ;
 The shrieking bat, that took its heavy flight ;
 All, all was pregnant with divine delight.
 We loved to watch the swallow, swimming high
 In the bright azure of the vaulted sky ; 195
 Or gaze upon the clouds, whose colour'd pride
 Was scatter'd thinly o'er the welkin wide,
 And tinged with such variety of shade,
 To the charm'd soul sublimest thoughts convey'd
 In these what forms romantic did we trace, 200
 While Fancy led us o'er the realms of space !

Now we espied the Thunderer in his car,
 Leading the embattled seraphim to war,
 Then stately towers decried, sublimely high,
 In Gothic grandeur frowning on the sky — 205
 Or saw, wide-stretching o'er the azure height,
 A ridge of glaciers in mural white,
 Hugely terrific — But those times are o'er,
 And the fond scene can charm mine eyes no more ;
 For thou art gone, and I am left below, 210
 Alone to struggle through this world of woe.

The scene is o'er — still seasons onward roll,
 And each revolve conducts me toward the goal ;
 Yet all is blank, without one soft relief,
 One endless continuity of grief ; 215
 And the tired soul, now led to thoughts sublime,
 Looks but for rest beyond the bounds of time.

Toil on, toil on, ye busy crowds, that pant
 For hoards of wealth which ye will never want :
 And, lost to all but gain, with ease resign 220
 The calms of peace and happiness divine !
 Far other cares be mine. — Men little crave
 In this short journey to the silent grave ;
 And the poor peasant, bless'd with peace and health,
 I envy more than Cræsus with his wealth. 225
 Yet grieve not I, that Fate did not decree
 Paternal acres to await on me ;
 She gave me more, she placed within my breast
 A heart with little pleased — with little blest !
 I look around me, where, on every side, 230
 Extensive manors spread in wealthy pride ;
 And could my sight be borne to either zone,
 I should not find one foot of land my own.

But whither do I wander ? shall the muse,
 For golden baits, her simple theme refuse ? 235
 Oh, no ! but while the weary spirit greets
 The fading scenes of childhood's far-gone sweets,
 It catches all the infant's wandering tongue,
 And prattles on in desultory song
 That song must close — the gloomy mists of night 240
 Obscure the pale stars' visionary light,

And ebon darkness, clad in vapoury wet,
Steals on the welkin in primæval jet.

The song must close. — Once more my adverse lot
Leads me reluctant from this cherish'd spot: 245
Again compels to plunge in busy life,
And brave the hateful turbulence of strife.

Scenes of my youth — ere my unwilling feet
Are turn'd for ever from this loved retreat,
Ere on these fields, with plenty cover'd o'er, 250
My eyes are closed to ope on them no more,
Let me ejaculate, to feeling due,
One long, one last affectionate adieu.
Grant that, if ever Providence should please
To give me an old age of peace and ease, 255
Grant that, in these sequester'd shades, my days
May wear away in gradual decays;
And oh! ye spirits, who unbodied play,
Unseen upon the pinions of the day,
Kind genn of my native fields benign, 260
Who were * * * *

THE FAIR MAID OF CLIFTON.

A new Ballad, in the old style.

THE night it was dark, and the winds were high,
And mournfully waved the wood,
As Bateman met his Margaret
By Trent's majestic flood

He press'd the maiden to his breast,
And his heart it was rack'd with fear,
For he knew, that again, 'twas a deadly chance
If ever he press'd her there.

"Oh! Margaret, wilt thou bear me true,"
He said, "while I'm far away,
"For to-morrow I go for a foreign land,
"And there I have long to stay."

And the maid she vow'd she would bear him true,
And thereto she plight'd her troth;
And she pray'd the fiend might fetch her away
When she forgot her oath.

And the night-owl scream'd, as again she swore,
And the grove it did mournfully moan,
And Bateman's heart within him sunk,
He thought 'twas his dying groan

And shortly he went with Clifton, his Lord,
To abide in a foreign land,
And Margaret she forgot her oath,
And she gave to another her hand

Her husband was rich, but old, and crabb'd,
And oft the false one sigh'd,
And wish'd that ere she bro' e her vow,
She had broken her heart, and died.

And now return'd, her Bateman came
To demand his betrothed bride;
But soon he learn'd that she had sought
A wealthier lover's side.

And when he heard the dreadful news,
No sound he utter'd more,
But his stiffen'd corse, ere the morn was seen,
Hung at his false one's door

And Margaret, all night, in her bed,
She dream'd hideous dreams;
And oft upon the morning wind
Were heard her frightful screams

And when she knew of her lover's death,
On her brow stood the clammy dew,
She thought of her oath, and she thought of her fate
And she saw that her days were few.

But the Lord he is just, and the guilty alone
Have to fear of his vengeance the lash,
The thunderbolt harms not the innocent head
While the criminal dies 'neath the flash.

His justice, she knew, would spare her awhile
For the child that she bare in her womb ;
But she felt, that when it was borne therefrom
She must instantly go to her tomb.

The hour approach'd, and she view'd it with fear
As the date of her earthly time ;
And she tried to pray to Almighty God,
To expiate her crime.

And she begg'd her relations would come at the day,
And the parson would pray at her side ,
And the clerk would sing a penitent hymn,
With all the singers beside.

And she begg'd they would bar the windows so strong,
And put a new lock to the door ;
And sprinkle with holy water the house,
And over her chamber floor.

And they barr'd with iron the windows so strong,
And they put a new lock on the door ;
And the parson he came, and he carefully strew'd
With holy water the floor.

And her kindred came to see the dame,
And the clerk, and the singers beside ;
And they did sing a penitent hymn,
And with her did abide.

And midnight came, and shortly the dame
Did give to her child the light ;
And then she did pray, that they would stay,
And pass with her the night.

And she begg'd they would sing the penitent hymn,
And pray with all their might ;
For sadly I fear, the fiend will be here,
And fetch me away this night.

And now without, a stormy rout,
With howls the guests did hear ;
And the parson he pray'd, for he was afraid,
And the singers they quaver'd with fear.

And Marg'ret pray'd the Almighty's aid,
 For louder the tempest grew;
 And every guest, his soul he blest,
 As the tapers burned blue.

And the fair again, she pray'd of the men
 To sing with all their might;
 And they did sing, till the house did ring,
 And louder they sung for affright

But now their song, it dried on their tongue,
 For sleep it was seizing their sense;
 And Marg'ret screamed, and bid them not sleep,
 Or the fiends would bear her thence.

* * * * *

SONG.

THE ROBIN RED-BREAST.

A VERY EARLY COMPOSITION.

When the winter wind whistles around my lone cot,
 And my holiday friends have my mansion forgot,
 Though a lonely poor being, still do not I pine,
 While my poor Robin Red-breast forsakes not my
 shrine.

He comes with the morning, he hops on my arm,
 For he knows 'tis too gentle to do him a harm -
 And in gratitude ever beguiles with a lay
 The soul-sick'ning thoughts of a bleak winter's day.

What, though he may leave me, when spring again
 smiles,
 To waste the sweet summer in love's little wiles,
 Yet will he remember his fosterer long,
 And greet her each morning with one little song

And when the rude blast shall again strip the trees,
 And plenty no longer shall fly on the breeze,

Oh! then he'll return to his Helena kind,
And repose in her breast from the rude northern
wind.

My sweet little Robin's no holiday guest,
He'll never forget his poor Helena's breast ;
But will strive to repay, by his generous song,
Her love, and her cares, in the winter day long

WINTER SONG.

Rouse the blazing midnight fire,
Heap the crackling faggots higher ;
Stern December reigns without,
With old Winter's blust'ring rout.

Let the jocund timbrels sound,
Push the jolly goblet round ;
Care avaunt, with all thy crew,
Goblins dire and devils blue.

Hark ! without the tempest growls :
And the affrighted watch-dog howls ;
Witches on their broomsticks sail,
Death upon the whistling gale.

Heap the crackling faggots higher,
Draw your easy chairs still nigher ;
And to guard from wizards' hoar,
Nail the horse-shoe on the door.

Now repeat the freezing story,
Of the murder'd traveller gory,
Found beneath the yew-tree scar,
Cut, his throat, from ear to ear.

Tell, too, how his ghost, all bloody,
Frighten'd once a neighb'ring goody ;
And how still at twelve he stalks,
Groaning o'er the wild-wood walks.

Then, when fear usurps her sway,
Let us creep to bed away ;
Each for ghosts, but little bolder,
Fearfully peeping o'er his shoulder.

SONG.

SWEET Jessy ! I would fain caress
That lovely cheek divine ;
Sweet Jessy, I'd give worlds to press
That rising breast to mine.

Sweet Jessy ! I with passion burn
Thy soft blue eyes to see ;
Sweet Jessy, I would die to turn
Those melting eyes on me ;

Yet, Jessy, lovely as * * *
Thy form and face appear,
I'd perish ere I would consent
To buy them with a tear.

* * * *

SONG.

Oh, that I were the fragrant flower that kisses
My Arabella's breast that heaves on high ;
Pleased should I be to taste the transient blisses,
And on the melting throne to faint, and die

Oh, that I were the robe that loosely covers
Her taper limbs, and Grecian form divine ;
Or the entwisted zones, like meeting lovers,
That clasp her waist in many an aery twine.

Oh, that my soul might take its lasting station
 In her waved hair, her perfumed breath to sip ;
 Or catch, by chance, her blue eyes' fascination !
 Or meet, by stealth, her soft vermilion lip.

But chain'd to this dull being, I must ever
 Lament the doom by which I'm hither placed ;
 Must part for moments I must meet with never,
 And dream of beauties I must never taste.

11

FRAGMENT

OF

AN ECCENTRIC DRAMA.

WRITTEN AT A VERY EARLY AGE.

In a little volume which Henry had copied out, apparently for the press, before the publication of Clifton Grove, the Song with which this fragment commences was inserted, under the title of "The Dance of the Consumptives, in imitation of Shakspeare, taken from an eccentric Drama, written by H. K. W. when very young." The rest was discovered among his loose papers, in the first rude draught, having, to all appearance, never been transcribed. The song was extracted when he was sixteen, and must have been written at least a year before, probably more, by hand-writing. There is something strikingly wild and original in the fragment.

THE DANCE OF THE CONSUMPTIVES.

1.

DING-DONG ! ding-dong !
 Merry, merry, go the bells,
 Ding-dong ! ding-dong !
 Over the heath, over the moor, and over the dale,

"Swinging slow with sullen roar,"
Dance, dance away the jocund roundelay !
Ding-dong, ding-dong, calls us away.

2

Round the oak, and round the elm,
Merrily foot it o'er the ground !
The sentry ghost it stands aloof,
So merrily, merrily foot it round,
Ding-dong ! ding-dong !
Merry, merry, go the bells,
Swelling in the nightly gale,
The sentry ghost,
It keeps its post,
And soon, and soon, our sports must fail :
But let us trip the nightly ground,
While the merry, merry bells ring round

3

Hark ! hark ! the death-watch ticks !
See, see, the winding-sheet !
Our dance is done,
Our race is run,
And we must lie at the alder's feet !
Ding-dong ! ding-dong !
Merry, merry, go the bells,
Swinging o'er the weltering wave !
And we must seek
Our death-beds bleak,
Where the green sod grows upon the grave

*vanish — The Goddess of Consumption descends,
habited in a sky-blue Robe, attended by mournful
Music*

Come, Melancholy, sister mine !
Cold the dews, and chill the night !
Come from thy dreary shrine !
The wan moon climbs the heavenly height,
And underneath the sickly ray
Troops of squalid spectres play,
And the dying mortal's groan
Startles the night on her dusky throne

Come, come, sister mine !
 Gliding on the pale moon-shine !
 We'll ride at ease,
 On the tainted breeze,
 And oh ! our sport will be divine.

*The Goddess of Melancholy advances out of a deep
 Glen in the rear, habited in Black, and covered
 with a thick Veil — She speaks*

Sister, from my dark abode,
 Where nests the raven, sits the toad,
 Hither I come at thy command :
 Sister, sister, join thy hand !
 Sister, sister, join thy hand !
 I will smooth the way for thee,
 Thou shalt furnish food for me.
 Come, let us speed our way
 Where the troops of spectres play.
 To charnel-houses, church-yards drear,
 Where death sits with a horrible leer,
 A lasting grin on a throne of bones,
 And skim along the blue tomb-stones.
 Come, let us speed away,
 Lay our snares, and spread our tether !
 I will smooth the way for thee,
 Thou shalt furnish food for me :
 And the grass shall wave
 O'er many a grave,
 Where youth and beauty sleep together.

CONSUMPTION.

Come, let us speed our way !
 Join our hands, and spread our tether !
 I will furnish food for thee,
 Thou shalt smooth the way for me ;
 And the grass shall wave
 O'er many a grave,
 Where youth and beauty sleep together.

MELANCHOLY.

Hist, sister, hist ! who comes here ?
 Oh ! I know her by that tear,

By that blue eye's languid glare,
 By her skin, and by her hair :
 She is mine,
 And she is thine,
 Now the deadliest draught prepare.

CONSUMPTION.

In the dismal night air drest,
 I will creep into her breast ;
 Flush her cheek, and bleach her skin,
 And feed on the vital fire within.
 Lover, do not trust her eyes, —
 When they sparkle most, she dies !
 Mother, do not trust her breath, —
 Comfort she will breathe in death !
 Father, do not strive to save her, —
 She is mine, and I must have her !
 The coffin must be her bridal bed ;
 The winding-sheet must wrap her head :
 The whispering winds must o'er her sigh,
 For soon in the grave the maid must lie,
 The worm it will riot
 On heavenly diet,
 When death has deflower'd her eye.
[*They vanish*]

While Consumption speaks, Angelina enters

ANGELINA.

With * what a silent and dejected pace
 Dost thou, wan Moon ! upon thy way advance
 In the blue welkin's vault ! — Pale wanderer !
 Hast thou too felt the pangs of hopeless love,
 That thus, with such a melancholy grace,
 Thou dost pursue thy solitary course ?
 Has thy Endymion, smooth-faced boy, forsook
 Thy widow'd breast ! — on which the spoiler oft
 Has nestled fondly, while the silver clouds

* With how sad steps, O moon, thou climb'st the skies,
 How silently and with how wan a face !

Fantastic pillow'd thee, and the dim night,
Obsequious to thy will, encurtain'd round
With its thick fringe thy couch? — Wan traveller,
How like thy fate to mine! — yet I have still
One heavenly hope remaining, which thou lack'st;
My woes will soon be buried in the grave
Of kind forgetfulness — my journey here,
Though it be darksome, joyless, and forlorn,
Is yet but short, and soon my weary feet
Will greet the peaceful inn of lasting rest.
But thou, unhappy Queen! art doom'd to trace
Thy lonely walk in the drear realms of night,
While many a lagging age shall sweep beneath
The leaden pinions of unshaken time;
Though not a hope shall spread its glittering hue
To cheat thy steps along the weary way.

O that the sum of human happiness
Should be so trifling, and so frail withal,
That when possess'd, it is but lessen'd grief;
And even then there's scarce a sudden gust
That blows across the dismal waste of life,
But bears it from the view. — O! who would shun
The hour that cuts from earth, and fear to press
The calm and peaceful pillows of the grave,
And yet endure the various ills of life,
And dark vicissitudes! — Soon, I hope, I feel,
And am assured, that I shall lay my head,
My weary aching head, on its last rest,
And on my lowly bed the grass-green sod
Will flourish sweetly. — And then they will weep
That one so young, and what they're pleased to call
So beautiful, should die so soon — And tell
How painful Disappointment's canker'd fang
Wither'd the rose upon my maiden cheek:
Oh, foolish ones! why, I shall sleep so sweetly,
Laid in my darksome grave, that they themselves
Might envy me my rest! — And as for them,
Who, on the score of former intimacy,
May thus remembrance me — they must themselves
Successive fall.

Around the winter fire
 (When out-a-doors the biting frost congeals,
 And shrill the skater's irons on the pool
 Ring loud, as by the moonlight he performs
 His graceful evolutions) they not long
 Shall sit and chat of older times, and feats
 Of early youth, but silent, one by one,
 Shall drop into their shrouds. — Some, in their age,
 Ripe for the sickle; others young, like me,
 And falling green beneath th' untimely stroke
 Thus, in short time, in the church-yard forlorn,
 Where I shall lie, my friends will lay them down,
 And dwell with me, a happy family.
 And oh! thou cruel, yet beloved youth,
 Who now hast left me hopeless here to mourn,
 Do thou but shed one tear upon my corse,
 And say that I was gentle, and deserved
 A better lover, and I shall forgive
 All, all thy wrongs; — and then do thou forget
 The hapless Margaret, and be as blest
 As wish can make thee. — Laugh, and play, and sing,
 With thy dear choice, and never think of me.

Yet hush, I hear a step. — In this dark wood —

* * * *

TO A FRIEND.

WRITTEN AT A VERY EARLY AGE.

I've read, my friend, of Dioclesian,
 And many other noble Grecian,
 Who wealth and palaces resign'd
 In cots the joys of peace to find;
 Maximian's meal of turnip-tops,
 (Disgusting food to dainty chops,)
 I've also read of, without wonder;
 But such a cur'd egregious blunder,
 As that a man of wit and sense,
 Should leave his books to hoard up pence —

Forsake the loved Aonian maids,
For all the petty tricks of trades,
I never, either now, or long since,
Have heard of such a piece of nonsense ;
That one who learning's joys hath felt,
And at the Muse's altar knelt,
Should leave a life of sacred leisure,
To taste the accumulating pleasure ;
And, metamorphosed to an alley duck,
Grovel in loads of kindred muck.
Oh ! 'tis beyond my comprehension !
A courtier throwing up his pension, —
A lawyer working without a fee, —
A parson giving charity, —
A truly pious methodist preacher, —
Are not, egad, so out of nature.
Had nature made thee half a fool,
But given thee wit to keep a school,
I had not stared at thy backsliding :
But when thy wit I can confide in,
When well I know thy just pretence
To solid and exalted sense ;
When well I know that on thy head
Philosophy her lights hath shed,
I stand aghast ! thy virtues sum too,
And wonder what this world will come to !

Yet, whence this strain ? Shall I repine
That thou alone dost singly shine ?
Shall I lament that thou alone,
Of men of parts, hast prudence known ?

LINES

ON READING THE POEMS OF WARTON

Age Fourteen.

On, Warton ! to thy soothing shell,
Stretch'd remote in hermit cell,
Where the brook runs babbling by,
For ever I could list'ning lie,
And, catching all the Muse's fire,
Hold converse with the tuneful quire

What pleasing themes thy page adorn,
The ruddy streaks of cheerful morn,
The pastoral pipe, the ode sublime,
And Melancholy's mournful chime !
Each with unwonted graces shines
In thy ever lovely lines

Thy Muse deserves the lasting meed,
Attuning sweet the Dorian reed,
Now the love-lorn swain complains,
And sings his sorrows to the plains ;
Now the Sylvan scenes appear
Through all the changes of the year ;
Or the elegiac strain
Softly sings of mental pain,
And mournful diapasons sail
On the faintly-dying gale.

But, ah ! the soothing scene is o'er !
On middle flight we cease to soar,
For now the Muse assumes a bolder sweep,
Strikes on the lyric string her sorrows deep,
In strains unheard before.
Now, now the rising fire thrills high,
Now, now to heav'n's high realms we fly,
And every throne explore ;
The soul entranced, on mighty wings
With all the poet's heat up springs,

And loses earthly woes ;
Till all alarm'd at the giddy height,
The Muse descends on gentler flight,
And lulls the wearied soul to soft repose.

TO THE MUSE.

WRITTEN AT THE AGE OF FOURTEEN.

I.

ILL-FATED maid, in whose unhappy train
Chill poverty and misery are seen,
Anguish and discontent, the unhappy bane
Of life, and blackener of each brighter scene.
Why to thy votaries dost thou give to feel
So keenly all the scorns — the jeers of life ?
Why not endow them to endure the strife
With apathy's invulnerable steel,
Of self-content and ease, each torturing wound to
heal.

II.

Ah ! who would taste your self-deluding joys,
That lure the unwary to a wretched doom,
That bid fair views and flattering hopes arise,
Then hurl them headlong to a lasting tomb ?
What is the charm which leads thy victims on
To persevere in paths that lead to woe ?
What can induce them in that route to go,
In which innumerable before have gone,
And died in misery, poor and woe-begone.

III.

Yet can I ask what charms in thee are found ;
I, who have drank from thine ethereal rill,
And tasted all the pleasures that abound
Upon Parnassus' loved Aonian hill ?
I, through whose soul the Muses' strains aye thrill ?

Oh ! I do feel the spell with which I'm tied ;
And though our annals fearful stories tell,
How Savage languish'd, and how Otway died,
Yet must I persevere, let whate'er will betide.

TO LOVE.

I.

Why should I blush to own I love?
'Tis love that rules the realms above
Why should I blush to say to all,
That Virtue holds my heart in thrall?

II.

Why should I seek the thickest shade,
Lest Love's dear secret be betray'd?
Why the stern brow deceitful move,
When I am languishing with love?

III.

Is it weakness thus to dwell
On passion that I dare not tell?
Such weakness I would ever prove :
'Tis painful, though 'tis sweet, to love.

THE WANDERING BOY.

A SONG.

I

When the winter wind whistles along the wild moor,
And the cottager shuts on the beggar his door ;
When the chilling tear stands in my comfortless eye,
Oh, how hard is the lot of the Wandering Boy !

II.

The winter is cold, and I have no vest,
And my heart it is cold as it beats in my breast ;

No father, no mother, no kindred have I,
For I am a parentless Wandering Boy.

III.

Yet I had a home, and I once had a sire,
A mother who granted each infant desire ;
Our cottage it stood in a wood-embower'd vale,
Where the ring-dove would warble its sorrowful tale.

IV.

But my father and mother were summon'd away,
And they left me to hard-hearted strangers a prey ;
I fled from their rigour with many a sigh,
And now I'm a poor little Wandering Boy

V

The wind it is keen, and the snow loads the gale,
And no one will list to my innocent tale ;
I'll go to the grave where my parents both lie,
And death shall befriend the poor Wandering Boy.

FRAGMENT.

————— The western gale,
Mild as the kisses of connubial love,
Plays round my languid limbs, as all dissolved,
Beneath the ancient elm's fantastic shade
I lie, exhausted with the noontide heat :
While rippling o'er his deep-worn pebble bed,
The rapid rivulet rushes at my feet,
Dispensing coolness. — On the fringed marge
Full many a flow'ret rears its head,—or pink,
Or gaudy daffodil.—'Tis here, at noon,
The buskin'd wood-nymphs from the heat retire,
And lave them in the fountain : here secure
From Pan, or savage satyr, they disport ;
Or stretch'd supinely on the velvet turf,
Lull'd by the laden bee, or sultry fly,
Invoke the god of slumber. * * *

* * * *

And, hark ! how merrily, from distant tow'r,
 Ring round the village bells ! now on the gale
 They rise with gradual swell, distinct and loud,
 Anon they die upon the pensive ear,
 Melting in faintest music — They bespeak
 A day of jubilee, and oft they bear,
 Commixt along the unfrequented shore,
 The sound of village dance and tabor loud,
 Startling the musing ear of Solitude.

Such is the jocund wake of Whitsuntide,
 When happy Superstition, gabbling old !
 Holds her unhurtful gambols — All the day
 The rustic revellers ply the mazy dance
 On the smooth-shaven green, and then at eve
 Commence the harmless rites and auguries —
 And many a tale of ancient days goes round
 They tell of wizard seer, whose potent spells
 Could hold in dreadful thrall the labouring moon,
 Or draw the fix'd stars from their eminence,
 And still the midnight tempest. — Then anon
 Tell of uncharnell'd spectres, seen to glide
 Along the lone wood's unfrequented path,
 Startling the 'nighted traveller ; while the sound
 Of undistinguish'd murmurs, heard to come
 From the dark centre of the deep'ning glen,
 Struck on his frozen ear

Oh, Ignorance !

Thou art fall'n man's best friend ! With thee he
 speeds
 In frigid apathy along his way,
 And never does the tear of agony
 Burn down his scorching cheek ; or the keen steel
 Of wounded feeling penetrate his breast.

Ev'n now, as leaning on his fragrant bank,
 I taste of all the keener happiness
 Which sense refined affords — Ev'n now my heart
 Would fain induce me to forsake the world,
 Throw off these garments, and in shepherd's weeds,
 With a small flock, and short suspended reed,

To sojourn in the woodland. — Then my thought
Draws such gay pictures of ideal bliss,
That I could almost err in reason's spite,
And trespass on my judgment.

Such is life :

The distant prospect always seems more fair,
And when attain'd, another still succeeds,
Far fairer than before, — yet compass'd round
With the same dangers, and the same dismay.
And we poor pilgrims in this dreary maze,
Still discontented, chase the fairy form
Of unsubstantial Happiness, to find,
When life itself is sinking in the strife,
'Tis but an airy bubble and a cheat.

ODE,

WRITTEN ON WHIT-MONDAY.

HARK ! how the merry bells ring jocund round,
And now they die upon the veering breeze ,
 Anon they thunder loud
 Full on the musing ear.

Wasted in varying cadence, by the shore
Of the still twinkling river, they bespeak
 A day of jubilee,
 An ancient holiday.

And, lo ! the rural revels are begun,
And gaily echoing to the laughing sky,
 On the smooth-shaven green
 Resounds the voice of Mirth.

Alas ! regardless of the tongue of Fate,
That tells them 'tis but as an hour since they,
 Who now are in their graves,
 Kept up the Whitsun dance.

And that another hour, and they must fall
Like those who went before, and sleep as still
 Beneath the silent sod,
 A cold and cheerless sleep.

Yet why should thoughts like these intrude to scare
The vagrant Happiness, when she will deign
 To smile upon us here,
 A transient visitor?

Mortals! be gladsome while ye have the power,
And laugh and seize the glittering lapse of joy;
 In time the bell will toll
 That warns ye to your graves

I to the woodland solitude will bend
My lonesome way—where Mirth's obstreperous shout
 Shall not intrude to break
 The meditative hour.

There will I ponder on the state of man,
Joyless and sad of heart, and consecrate
 This day of jubilee
 To sad Reflection's shrine;

And I will cast my fond eye far beyond
This world of care, to where the steeple loud
 Shall rock above the sod,
 Where I shall sleep in peace.

CANZONET.

I.

MAIDEN! wrap thy mantle round thee,
Cold the rain beats on thy breast:
Why should Horror's voice astound thee,
Death can bid the wretched rest!
 All under the tree
 Thy bed may be,
And thou mayest slumber peacefully.

II.

Maiden ! once gay Pleasure knew thee ;

Now thy cheeks are pale and deep :

Love has been a felon to thee,

Yet, poor maiden, do not weep :

There's rest for thee

All under the tree.

Where thou wilt sleep most peacefully.

COMPLETMENT OF A POEM

ON DESPAIR.

SOME to Aonian lyres of silver sound

With winning elegance attune their song.

Form'd to sink lightly on the soothed sense,

And charm the soul with softest harmony :

'Tis then that Hope with sanguine eye is seen

Roving through Fancy's gay futurity;

Her heart light dancing to the sounds of pleasure,

Pleasure of days to come.—Memory, too, then

Comes with the merry, Melancholy sad,

and now they do upon the scenes of youth,

Subjects merit poets used to raise

The attic verse harmonious; but for me

A dreadlier theme demands my backward hand,

And bids me seek strings of dissonance

With frantic energy.

'Tis wan Despair I sing ; if sing I can

Of him before whose blast the voice of Song,

And Mirth, and Hope, and Happiness all fly,

Nor ever dare return. His notes are heard:

At noon of night, where on the coast of blood,

The lacerated son of Angola

Howls forth his sufferings to the moaning wind :

* Alluding to the two pleasing poems, the Measures of Ho and of Memory.

And, when the awful silence of the night
Strikes the chill death-dew to the murd'rer's heart,
He speaks in every conscience-prompted word,
Half utter'd, half suppress'd —

'Tis him I sing — Despair — terrific name,
Striking unsteadily the tremulous chord
Of timorous terror — discord in the sound.
For to a theme revolting as is this,
Dare not I woo the maids of harmony,
Who love to sit and catch the soothing sound
Of lyre Æolian, or the martial bugle,
Calling the hero to the field of glory,
And firing him with deeds of high emprise,
And warlike triumph : but from scenes like mine
Shrink they affrighted, and detect the bard
Who dares to sound the hollow tones of horror.

Hence, then, soft maids,
And woo the silken zephyr in the bowers
By Helicon's sleep-inviting stream :
For aid like yours I seek not, 'tis for powers
Of darker hue to inspire a verse like mine !
'Tis work for wizards, sorcerers and fiends !

Hither, ye furious imps of hell beyond
Nurslings of hell, and bellow the terrible loud
And all the myriads of the burning concave
Souls of the damned, — Hither, oh ! come all.
Th' infernal chorus 'Tis Despair I sing !
He, whose sole tooth inflicts the fiercer pang
Than all your tortures join'd — Sing, sing Despair !
Repeat the sound, and celebrate his power ;
Unite shouts, screams, and agonizing shrieks,
Till the loud pean ring through hell's high vault,
And the remotest spirits of the deep
Leap from the lake, and join the dreadful song.

ON RURAL SOLITUDE.

WHEN wandering, thoughtful, my stray steps at eve
(Released from toil and careless of their way),
Have reach'd, unwillingly, some rural spot
Where Quiet dwells in cluster'd cottages,
Fast by a wood, or on the river's marge,
I have sat down upon the shady stile
Half wearied with the long and lonesome walk,
And felt strange sadness steal upon the heart,
And unaccountable. — The rural smells
And sounds speak all of peacefulness and home;
The lazy mastiff, who my coming eyed,
Half balancing 'twixt fondness and distrust,
Recall'd some images, now half forgot,
Of the warm hearth at eve, when flocks are penn'd
And cattle housed, and every labour done.
And as the twilight's peaceful hour closed in,
The spiral smoke ascending from the thatch,
And the eve sparrow's last retiring chirp,
Have brought a busy train of hov'ring thoughts
To recollection, — rural offices
In younger days, and happier times perform'd.
And rural friends, now with their grave-stones carved,
And tales which wore away the winter's night
Yet fresh in memory. — Then my thoughts assume
A different turn, and I am e'en at home.
That hut is mine; that cottage half-embower'd
With modest jessamine, and that sweet spot
Of garden-ground, where, ranged in meet array,
Grow countless sweets, the wall-flower and the pink,
And the thick thyme-bush — even that is mine:
And that old mulberry that shades the court,
Has been my joy from very childhood up.

* * * *

In hollow music sighing through the glade,
The breeze of autumn strikes the startled ear,
And fancy, pacing through the woodland shade,
Hears in the gust the requiem of the year.

As with lone tread along the whisp'ring grove
I list the moan of the capricious wind,
I, too, o'er fancy's milky way would rove,
But sadness chains to earth my pensive mind.

When by the huddling brooklet's secret brim
I pause, and woo the dreams of Helicon,
Sudden my saddest thoughts revert to him
Who taught that brook to wind, and now is gone.

When by the poet's sacred urns I kneel,
And rapture springs exultant to my reed,
The psalm dies, and sadder measures steal,
And grief and Montague demand the meed.

* * * * *

Thou mongrel, who dost show thy teeth, and yelp,
And bay the harmless stranger on his way,
Yet, when the wolf appears, dost roar for help,
And scamperest quickly from the bloody fray;
Dare but on my fair fame to cast a slur,
And I will make thee know, unto thy pain,
Thou vile old good-for-nothing cur!

I, a Laconian dog, can bite again:
Yes, I can make the Daunian tiger flee,
Much more a bragging, foul-mouth'd whelp like
thee.

Beware Lycambes', or Bupalus' fate —
The wicked still shall meet my deadly hate;

And know, when once I seize upon my prey,
 I do not languidly my wrongs bemoan ;
 I do not whine and cant the time away,
 But, with revengeful gripe, I bite him to the bone.

* * * * *

ODE

TO THE MORNING STAR.

MANY invoke pale Hesper's pensive sway,
 When rest supine leans o'er the pillowing clouds,
 And the last tinklings come
 From the safe folded flock.

But me, bright harbinger of coming day,
 Who shone the first on the primæval morn ;
 Me, thou delightest more—
 Chastely luxuriant.

Let the poor silken sons of slothful pride
 Press now their downy couch in languid ease,
 While visions of dismay
 Flit o'er their troubled brain.

Be mine to view ; awake to nature's charms,
 Thy paly flame evanish from the sky,
 As gradual day usurps
 The welkin's glowing bounds.

Mine, to snuff up the pure ambrosial breeze,
 Which bears aloft the roc-bound car of morn,
 And mark his early flight
 The rustling sky-lark wing.

And thou, Hygeia, shalt my steps attend,
 Thou, whom distracted, I so lately wooed,
 As on my restless bed
 Slow past the tedious night ;

And slowly, by the taper's sickly gleam
Drew my dull curtain, and with anxious eye
Strove through the veil of night
To mark the tardy morn.

Thou, Health, shalt bless me in my early walk,
As o'er the upland slope I brush the dew,
And feel the genial thrill
Dance in my lighten'd veins.

And as I mark the Cotter from his shed
Peep out with jocund face — thou, too, Content,
Shalt steal into my breast,
Thy mild, thy placid sway.

Star of the morning! these, thy joys I'll share,
As rore my pilgrim feet the sylvan haunts,
While to thy blushing shrine
Due orisons shall rise.

THE HERMIT OF THE PACIFIC,

on

THE HORRORS OF UTTER SOLITUDE

On! who can paint the unspeakable dismay
Of utter Solitude, shut out from all
Of social intercourse — Oh! who can say
What haggard horrors hold in shuddering thrall
Him, who by some Carvaggian waterfall
A shipwreck'd man hath scoop'd his desert cave,
Where Desolation, in her giant pail,
Sits frowning on the ever-falling wave,
That woos the wretch to dig, by her loud shore,
his grave.

Thou youthful pilgrim, whose untoward feet,
Too early have been torn in life's rough way,

Thou who, endow'd with Fancy's holiest heat,
 Seest dark Misfortune cloud thy morning ray :
 Though doom'd in penury to pine thy day,
 O seek not,—seek not in the glooms to shroud
 Of waste, or wilderness—a cast-away—

Where noise intrudes not, save when in the cloud,
 Riding sublime, the storm roars fearfully and loud.

Though man to man be as the ocean shark,
 Reckless, and unrelentingly severe ;
 Though friendship's cloak must veil the purpose
 dark,

While the red poniard glimmers in the rear,
 Yet is society most passing dear.

Though mix'd with clouds, its sunshine gleams
 refined

Will through the glooms most pleasantly appear,
 And soothe thee, when thy melancholy mind
 Must ask for comfort else of the loud pitiless wind.

Yet is it distant from the muse's theme

To bid thee fly the rural covert still,

And plunge impetuous in the busy stream

Of crowds to take of * * joys thy fill.

Ah ! no, she woos thee to attune thy quill

In some low village's remote recess,

Where thou may'st learn — O enviable skill ! —

To heal the sick, and soothe the comfortless,

To give, and to receive — be blessed, and to bless.

God unto men hath different powers assign'd : —

There be, who love the city's dull turmoil ;

There be, who, proud of an ambitious mind,

From lonely Quiet's hermit-walks recoil :

Leave thou these insects to their grov'ling toil —

Thou, whom retired leisure best can please ;

For thee, the hazel copse's verdant aisle,

And summer bow'r, befitting studious ease,

Prepare a keener bliss than they shall ever seize.

Lo, the grey morning climbs the eastern tower,

The dew-drop glistening in her op'ning eye ;

Now on the upland lawns salute the hour
That wakes the warbling woods to melody ,
There sauntering on the stile, embower'd high
With fragrant hawthorn, and the gidding brier,
Pore on thy book, or cast by fits thine eye
Where far below, hill, dale, and village spire,
And brook, and mead, and wood, far from the sight
retire.

But what are these, *forsaken* and *forlorn* ?
'Tis animation breathes the subtle spell —
Hark ! from the echoing wood the mellow horn
Winds round from hill to hill, with distant swell ;
The peasant's matin rises from the dell ,
The heavy waggon creaks upon its way,
While tinkling soft the silver-tuning bell
Floats on the gale, or dies by fits away
From the sweet straw-roof'd grange, deep buried
from the day.

Man was not made to pine in solitude,
Ensepulchred, and far from converse placed,
Not for himself alone, untamed and rude,
To live the Bittern of the desert waste ;
It is not his (by manlier virtues graced)
To pore upon the noontide brook, and sigh,
And weep for aye o'er sorrow uneffaced ;
His social duties call the tear to dry,
And wake the nobler powers of usefulness to ply.

The savage broods that in the forest shroud,
The Pard and Lion mingle with their kind ;
And, oh, shall man, with nobler powers endowed,
Shall he, to nature's strongest impulse blind,
Bury in shades his proud immortal mind ?
Like the sweet flower, that on some steep rock
thrown,
Blossoms forlorn, rock'd by the mountain wind ;
A little while it decks the rugged stone,
Then, withering, fades away, unnoticed and un-
known !

For ye who, fill'd with fancy's wildest dreams,
 Run from the imperious voice of human pride,
 And shrinking quick from woe's unheeded screams,
 Long in some desert-cell your heads to hide,
 Where you may muse from morn to eventide,
 Free from the taunts of contumely and scorn,
 From sights of woe — the power to soothe denied,
 Attend the song which in life's early morn —

* * * *

TO THE WIND.

AT MIDNIGHT

Not unfamiliar to mine ear,
 Blasts of the night ! ye howl as now
 My shudd'ring casement loud
 With fitful force ye beat.

Mine ear has dwelt in silent awe,
 The howling sweep, the sudden rush ;
 And when the passing gale
 Pour'd deep the hollow dirge.

* * * *

THE EVE OF DEATH.

IRREGULAR.

I

SILENCE of Death — portentous calm,
 Those airy forms that yonder fly,
 Denote that your void fore-runs a storm,
 That the hour of fate is nigh.

I see, I see, on the dim mist borne,
The Spirit of battles rear his crest !
I see, I see, that ere the morn,
His spear will forsake its hated rest,
And the widow'd wife of Larrendill will beat her
naked breast.

II.

O'er the smooth bosom of the sullen deep,
No softly ruffling zephyrs fly,
But nature sleeps a deathless sleep,
For the hour of battle is nigh.
Not a loose leaf waves on the dusky oak,
But a creeping stillness reigns around ;
Except when the raven, with ominous croak,
On the ear does unwelcomely sound.
I know, I know, what this silence means ;
I know what the raven saith : —
Strike, oh, ye birds ! the melancholy harp,
For this is the eve of death.

III

Behold, how along the twilight air
The shades of our fathers glide !
There Morvan fled, with the blood-drench'd hair,
And Colma with grey side,
No gale around its coolness flings,
Yet sadly sigh the gloomy trees,
And, hark ! how the harp's unvisited strings
Sound sweet, as if swept by a whispering breeze !
'Tis done ! the sun he has set in blood !
He will never set more to the brave,
Let us pour to the hero the dirge of death —
For to-morrow he hies to the grave.

THANATOS.

Oh ! who would cherish life,
And cling unto this heavy clog of clay,
Love this rude world of strife,
Where glooms and tempests cloud the fairest day ;

And where, 'neath outward smiles
Conceal'd, the snake lies feeding on its prey,
Where pit-falls lie in ev'ry flow'ry way,
And syrens lure the wanderer to their wiles !
Hateful it is to me,
Its riotous railings and revengeful strife ;
I'm tired with all its screams and brutal shouts
Dinning the ear ; — away — away with life !
And welcome, oh ! thou silent maid,
Who in some foggy vault art laid,
Where never daylight's dazzling ray
Comes to disturb thy dismal sway ;
And there amid unwholesome damps dost sleep,
In such forgetful slumbers deep,
That all thy senses stupified,
Are to marble petrified.
Sleepy Death, I welcome thee !
Sweet are thy calms to misery.
Poppies I will ask no more,
Nor the fatal hellebore ;
Death is the best, the only cure,
His are slumbers ever sure.
Lay me in the Gothic tomb,
In whose solemn fretted gloom
I may lie in mouldering state,
With all the grandeur of the great :
Over me, magnificent,
Carve a stately monument :
Then thereon my statue lay,
With hands in attitude to pray,
And angels serve to hold my head,
Weeping o'er the father dead.
Duly too at close of day,
Let the pealing organ play ;
And while the harmonious thunders roll,
Chaunt a vesper to my soul :
Thus how sweet my sleep will be,
Shut out from thoughtful misery !

ATHANATOS.

AWAY with Death—away
 With all her sluggish sleeps and chilling damps,
 Impervious to the day,
 Where Nature sinks into inanity
 How can the soul desire
 Such hateful nothingness to crave,
 And yield with joy the vital fire,
 To moulder in the grave!
 Yet mortal life is sad,
 Eternal storms molest its sullen sky;
 And sorrows ever rise
 Drain the sacred fountain dry—
 Away with mortal life!
 But, hail the calm reality,
 The seraph Immortality!
 Hail the heaven's bowers of peace!
 Where all the storms of passion cease.
 Wild Life's dizzying struggle o'er,
 The wearied spirit weeps no more;
 But wears the eternal smile of joy,
 Tasting bliss without alloy.
 Welcome, welcome, happy bowers,
 Where no passing tempest lowers;
 But the azure heavens display
 The everlasting smile of day,
 Where the choral seraph choir,
 Strike to praise the harmonious lyre;
 And the spirit sinks to ease,
 Lull'd by distant symphonies
 Oh! to think of meeting there
 The friends whose graves received our tear,
 The daughter loved, the wife adored,
 To our widow'd arms restored;
 And all the joys which death did sever,
 Given to us again for ever!
 Who would cling to wretched life,
 And hug the poison'd thorn of strife;

Who would not long from earth to fly,
A sluggish senseless lump to lie,
When the glorious prospect lies
Full before his raptured eyes?

MUSIC.

WRITTEN BETWEEN THE AGES OF FOURTEEN AND
FIFTEEN, WITH A FEW SUBSEQUENT VERBAL AL-
TERATIONS

Music, all powerful o'er the human mind,
Can still each mental storm, each tumult calm,
Soothe anxious Care on sleepless couch reclined,
And e'en fierce Anger's furious rage disarm.

At her command the various passions lie ;
She stirs to battle, or she lulls to peace :
Melts the charm'd soul to thrilling ecstacy,
And bids the jarring world's harsh clangour cease

Her martial sounds can fainting troops inspire
With strength unwonted, and enthusiasm raise ;
Infuse new ardour, and with youthful fire
Urge on the warrior grey with length of days.

Far better she when with her soothing lyre
She charms the falchion from the savage grasp,
And melting into pity vengeful Ire,
Looses the bloody breast-plate's iron clasp.

With her in pensive mood I long to roam,
At midnight's hour, or evening's calm decline,
And thoughtful o'er the falling streamlet's foam,
In calm Seclusion's hermit-walks recline.

Whilst mellow sounds from distant copse arise,
Of softest flute or reeds harmonic join'd,
With rapture thrill'd each worldly passion dies,
And pleas'd Attention claims the passive mind.

Soft through the dell the dying strains retire,
 Then burst majestic in the varied swell ;
 Now breathe melodious as the Grecian lyre,
 Or on the ear in sinking cadence dwell

Romantic sounds ! such is the bliss ye give,
 That heaven's bright scenes seem bursting on the
 soul,
 With joy I'd yield each sensual wish, to live
 For ever 'neath your undefiled control

Oh ! surely melody from heaven was sent,
 To cheer the soul when tired with human strife,
 To soothe the wayward heart by sorrow rent,
 And soften down the rugged road of life

ODE

TO THE HARVEST MOON.

————— Cum ruit imbriferum ver
 Spicæ jam campis cum messis inhorruit, et cum
 Frumenta in viridi stipula lactentia turgent

Cuncta tibi Cerecem pubes agrestis adoret.
 VIRGIL.

Moon of Harvest, herald mild
 Of plenty, rustic labour's child,
 Hail ! oh hail ! I greet thy beam,
 As soft it trembles o'er the stream,
 And gilds the straw-thatch'd hamlet wide,
 Where Innocence and Peace reside ;
 'Tis thou that glad'st with joy the rustic throng,
 Promptest the tripping dance, th' exhilarating song.

Moon of Harvest, I do love
 O'er the uplands now to rove
 While thy modest ray serene
 Gilds the wide surrounding scene ;
 And to watch thee riding high
 In the blue vault of the sky,

Where no thin vapour intercepts thy ray,
But in unclouded majesty thou walkest on thy way.

Pleasing 'tis, O modest Moon !
Now the Night is at her noon,
'Neath thy sway to musing lie,
While around the zephyrs sigh,
Fanning soft the sun-tann'd wheat,
Ripen'd by the summer's heat ;
Picturing all the rustic's joy
When boundless plenty greets his eye,
And thinking soon,
O modest Moon !

How many a female eye will roam
Along the road,
To see the load,
The fast dear load of harvest-home !

Storms and tempests, floods and rains,
Stern despoilers of the plains,
Hence away, the season flee,
Foes to light-heart jollity :
May no winds careering high,
Drive the clouds along the sky,
But may all nature smile with aspect boon,
When in the heavens thou show'st thy face, O
Harvest Moon !

* 'Neath yon lowly roof he lies,
The husbandman, with sleep-seal'd eyes ;
He dreams of crowded barns, and round
The yard he hears the flail resound ;
Oh ! may no hurricane destroy
His visionary views of joy !
God of the Winds ! oh, hear his humble prayer,
And while the Moon of Harvest shines, thy blust'ring
whirlwind spare.

Sons of luxury, to you
Leave I Sleep's dull power to woo :
Press ye still the downy bed,
While feverish dreams surround your head ;

I will seek the woodland glade,
Penetrate the thickest shade,
Wrapt in Contemplation's dreams,
Musing high on holy themes,
 While on the gale
 Shall softly sail
The nightingale's enchanting tune,
 And oft my eyes
 Shall grateful rise
To thee, the modest Harvest Moon!

SONG.

WRITTEN AT THE AGE OF FOURTEEN.

I

Softly, softly blow, ye breezes,
Gently o'er my Edwy fly!
Lo! he slumbers, slumbers sweetly;
Softly, zephyrs, pass him by;
My love is asleep,
He lies by the deep,
All along where the salt waves sigh.

II.

I have cover'd him with rushes,
Water-flags, and branches dry.
Edwy, long have been thy slumbers;
Edwy, Edwy, ope thine eye!
My love is asleep,
He lies by the deep,
All along where the salt waves sigh.

III

Still he sleeps; he will not waken;
Fastly closed is his eye;
Paler is his cheek, and chiller
Than the icy moon on high.

Alas ! he is dead,
 He has chose his death-bed
 All along where the salt waves sigh.

IV.

Is't it, is it so, my Edwy ?
 Will thy slumbers never fly ?
 Couldst thou think I would survive thee ?
 No, my love, thou bidd'st me die.
 Thou bidd'st me seek
 Thy death-bed bleak
 All along where the salt waves sigh.

V.

I will gently kiss thy cold lips,
 On thy breast I'll lay my head,
 And the winds shall sing our death-dirge,
 And our shroud the waters spread ;
 The moon will smile sweet,
 And the wild wave will beat,
 Oh ! so softly o'er our lonely bed.

THE SHIPWRECKED SOLITARY'S SONG

TO THE NIGHT.

Thou, spirit of the spangled night !
 I woo thee from the watch-tower high,
 Where thou dost sit to guide the bark
 Of lonely mariner.

The winds are whistling o'er the wolds,
 The distant main is moaning low ;
 Come, let us sit and weave a song —
 A melancholy song !

Sweet is the scented gale of morn,
 And sweet the noontide's fervid beam,
 But sweeter far the solemn calm,
 That marks thy mournful reign.

I've pass'd here many a lonely year,
And never human voice have heard;
I've pass'd here many a lonely year
A solitary man.

And I have linger'd in the shade,
From sultry noon's hot beams; and I
Have knelt before my wicker door,
To sing my ev'ning song

And I have hail'd the grey morn hush,
On the blue mountain's misty brow,
And tried to tune my little reed
To hymns of harmony

But never could I tune my reed,
At morn, or noon, or eve, so sweet,
As when upon the ocean shore
I hail'd thy star-beam mild.

The day-spring brings not joy to me,
The moon it whispers not of peace!
But, oh! when darkness robes the heav'ns,
My woes are mix'd with joy.

And then I talk, and often think
Aïrial voices answer me;
And, oh! I am not then alone—
A solitary man

And when the blust'ring winter winds
Howl in the woods that clothe my cave
I lay me on my lonely mat,
And pleasant are my dreams

And Fancy gives me back my wife;
And Fancy gives me back my child,
She gives me back my little home,
And all its placid joys

Then hateful is the morning hour,
That calls me from the dream of bliss
To find myself still lone, and hear
 The same dull sounds again :

The deep-toned winds, the moaning sea,
The whisp'ring of the boding trees,
The brook's eternal flow, and oft
 The condor's hollow scream.

CLIFTON GROVE.*

DEDICATION

To Her Grace the Duchess of Devonshire, the following trifling effusions of a very youthful Muse are, by permission, dedicated by her Grace's much obliged and grateful servant,

HENRY KIRKE WHITE.

NO L. 2. 12. 1

PREFACE.

THE following attempts in Verse are laid before the Public with extreme diffidence. The Author is very conscious that the juvenile efforts of a youth, who has not received the polish of Academical discipline, and who has been but sparingly blessed with opportunities for the prosecution of scholastic pursuits, must necessarily be defective in the accuracy and finished elegance which mark the works of the man who has passed his life in the retirement of his study, furnishing his mind with images, and at the same time attaining the power of disposing those images to the best advantage.

The unpremeditated effusions of a Boy, from his thirteenth year, employed, not in the acquisition of literary information, but in the more active business of life, must not be expected to exhibit any considerable portion of the correctness of a Virgil,

* This, and the following Poems, are reprinted from the little Volume which Henry published in 1805.

or the vigorous compression of a Horace. Men are not, I believe, frequently known to bestow much labour on their amusements : and these Poems were, most of them, written merely to beguile a leisure hour, or to fill up the languid intervals of studies of a severer nature.

Πας το οικίης έργον αγατάν, "Every one loves his own work," says the Stagyrte ; but it was no overweening affection of this kind which induced this publication. Had the author relied on his own judgment only, these Poems would not, in all probability, ever have seen the light.

Perhaps it may be asked of him, what are his *r*tives for this publication ? He answers—sir, these : The facilitation, through its means, of t studies which, from his earliest infancy, have the principal objects of his ambition ; and crease of the capacity to pursue those inclination which may one day place him in an honourable station in the scale of society.

The principal Poem in this little collection (Clifton Grove) is, he fears, deficient in numbers and harmonious coherency of parts. It is, however, merely to be regarded as a description of a nocturnal ramble in that charming retreat, accompanied with such reflections as the scene naturally suggested. It was written twelve months ago, when the Author was in his sixteenth year :—The Miscellanies are some of them the productions of a very early age. — Of the Odes, that "To an early Primrose" was written at thirteen — the others are of a later date.—The Sonnets are chiefly irregular ; they have, perhaps, no other claim to that *specific* denomination, than that they consist only of fourteen lines.

Such are the Poems towards which I entreat the lenity of the Public. The Critic will doubtless find in them much to condemn ; he may likewise possi-

bly discover something to commend. Let him scan my faults with an indulgent eye, and in the work of that correction which I invite, let him remember he is holding the iron Mace of Criticism over the flimsy superstructure of a youth of seventeen, and, remembering that, may he forbear from crushing, by too much rigour, the painted butterfly whose transient colours may otherwise be capable of affording a moment's innocent amusement.

H. K. WHITE.

NOTTINGHAM.

TO MY LYRE.

AN ODE.

I.

Thou simple Lyre! — Thy music wild
Has served to charm the weary hour,
And many a lonely night has 'guiled,
When even pain has own'd and smiled,
Its fascinating power.

II.

Yet, oh, my Lyre! the busy crowd
Will little heed thy simple tones;
Thou mightier minstrels harping loud
Engross, — and thou and I must shroud
Where dark Oblivion 'thrones.

III.

No hand thy diapason o'er,
Well skill'd, I throw with sweep sublime;
For me, no academic lore
Has taught the solemn strain to pour,
Or build the polish'd rhyme.

IV.

Yet thou to *sylvan* themes canst soar ;
Thou know'st to charm the *woodland* train :
The rustic swains believe thy power
Can hush the wild winds when they roar,
And still the billow y main.

V.

These honours, Lyre, we yet may keep,
I, still unknown, may live with thee,
And gentle zephyr's wing will sweep
Thy solemn string, where low I sleep,
Beneath the alder tree.

VI.

This little dirge will please me more
Than the full requiem's swelling peal ;
I'd rather than that crowds should sigh
For me, that from some kindred eye
The trickling tear should steal.

VII.

Yet dear to me the wreath of bay,
Perhaps from me debarr'd :
And dear to me the classic zone,
Which, snatch'd from learning's labour'd throne,
Adorns the accepted bard.

VIII.

And, oh ! if yet 'twere mine to dwell
Where Cam or Isis winds along,
Perchance, inspired with ardour chaste,
I yet might call the ear of taste
To listen to my song.

IX.

Oh ! then, my little friend, thy style
I'd change to happier lays,
Oh ! then, the cloister'd glooms should smile,
And through the long, the fretted aisle
Should swell the note of praise.

CLIFTON GROVE.

A SKETCH IN VERSE.

Lo! in the west, fast fades the lingering light,
 And day's last vestige takes its silent flight.
 No more is heard the woodman's measured stroke,
 Which, with the dawn, from yonder dingle broke;
 No more hoarse clamouring o'er the uplifted head,
 The crows assembling, seek their wind-rock'd bed,
 Still'd is the village hum — the woodland sounds
 Have ceas'd to echo o'er the dewy grounds,
 And general silence reigns, save when below,
 The murmuring Trent is scarcely heard to flow;
 And save when, swung by 'nighted rustic late,
 Oft, on its hinge, rebounds the jarring gate;
 Or when the sheep-bell, in the distant vale,
 Breathes its wild music on the downy gale.

Now, when the rustic wears the social smile,
 Released from day and its attendant toil,
 And draws his household round their evening fire,
 And tells the oft-told tales that never 'ere;
 Or where the town's blue turrets dimly rise,
 And manufacture taints the ambient skies,
 The pale mechanic leaves the labouring loom
 The air-pent hold, the pestilential room,
 And rushes out, impatient to begin
 The stated course of customary sin -
 Now, now my solitary way I bend
 Where solemn groves in awful state impend,
 And cliffs, that boldly rise above the plain,
 Bespeak, blest Clifton! thy sublime domain.
 Here lonely wandering o'er the sylvan bower,
 I come to pass the meditative hour,
 To bid awhile the strife of passion cease,
 And woo the calms of solitude and peace.
 And oh! thou sacred Power, who rear'st on high
 Thy leafy throne where waving poplars sigh!
 Genius of woodland shades! whose mild control
 Steals with resistless witchery to the soul,

Come with thy wonted ardour, and inspire
My glowing bosom with thy hallow'd fire.
And thou too, Fancy, from thy starry sphere,
Where to the hymning orbs thou lend'st thine ear,
Do thou descend, and bless my ravish'd sight,
Veil'd in soft visions of serene delight.
At thy command the gale that passes by
Bears in its whispers mystic harmony.
Thou wavest thy wand, and lo ! what forms appear !
On the dark cloud what giant shapes career !
The ghosts of *Ossian* skim the misty vale,
And hosts of *Sylphids* on the moon-beams sail.

This gloomy alcove, darkling to the sight,
Where meeting trees create eternal night ;
Save, when from yonder stream, the sunny ray,
Reflected, gives a dubious gleam of day ;
Recalls, endearing to my alter'd mind,
Times, when beneath the boxen hedge reclined,
I watch'd the lapwing to her clamorous brood ;
Or lured the robin to its scatter'd food ;
Or woke with song the woodland echo wild,
And at each gay response delighted smiled.
How oft, when childhood threw its golden ray
Of gay romance o'er every happy day,
Here would I run, a visionary boy,
When the hoarse tempest shook the vaulted sky,
And, fancy-led, beheld the Almighty's form
Sternly careering on the eddying storm ;
And heard, while awe congeal'd my inmost soul,
His voice terrific in the thunders roll.
With secret joy, I view'd with vivid glare
The volley'd lightnings cleave the sullen air ;
And, as the warring winds around reviled,
With awful pleasure big, — I heard and smiled.
Beloved remembrance ! — Memory which endears
This silent spot to my advancing years.
Here dwells eternal peace, eternal rest ;
In shades like these to live is to be blest.
While happiness evades the busy crowd,
In rural coverts loves the maid to shroud. '
And thou too, Inspiration, whose wild flame
Shoots with electric swiftness through the frame,

Thou here dost love to sit with up-turn'd eye,
 And listen to the stream that murmurs by,
 The woods that wave, the grey owl's silken flight,
 The mellow music of the listening night
 Congenial calms more welcome to my breast
 Than maddening joy in dazzling lustre drest,
 To heaven my prayers, my daily prayers, I raise,
 That ye may bless my unambitious days,
 Withdrawn, remote, from all the haunts of strife,
 May trace with me the lowly vale of life,
 And when her binner Death shall o'er me wave,
 May keep your peaceful vigils on my grave
 As I rove, where wide the prospect grows,
 A livelier light upon my vision flows
 No more above the embracing branches meet,
 No more the river gurgles at my feet,
 But seen deep, down the cliff's impending side,
 Through hanging woods, now gleams its silver tide
 Dim is my upland path, — across the Green
 Fantastic shadows fling, yet oft between
 The chequer'd glooms, the moon her chaste ray sheds
 Where knots of blue-bells droop their graceful heads,
 And beds of violets blooming 'mid the trees,
 Load with waste fragrance the nocturnal breeze

Say, why does Man, while to his opening sight
 Each shrub presents a source of chaste delight,
 And Nature bids for him her treasures flow,
 And gives to him alone his bliss to know,—
 Why does he pant for Vice's deadly charms?
 Why clasp the syren Pleasure to his arms?
 And suck deep draughts of her voluptuous breath,
 Though fraught with ruin, infamy, and death?
 Could he who thus to vile enjoyment clings,
 Know what calm joy from purer sources springs;
 Could he but feel how sweet, how free from strife,
 The harmless pleasures of a harmless life;
 No more his soul would pant for joys impure,
 The deadly chalice would no more allure,
 But the sweet potion he was wont to sip,
 Would turn to poison on his conscious lip.

Fair Nature! thee, in all thy varied charms,
 Fain would I clasp for ever in my arms!
 Thine are the sweets which never, never cease,
 Thine still remain through all the storms of fate
 Though not for me 'twere Heaven's divine command
 To roll in acres of paternal land,
 Yet still my lot is blest, while I enjoy
 Thine opening beauties with a lover's eye.

Happy is he, who, though the cup of bliss
 Has ever chunn'd him when he thought to kiss,
 Who, still in abject poverty or pain,
 Can count with pleasure what small joys remain :
 Though were his sight convey'd from zone to zone,
 He would not find one spot of ground his own,
 Yet as he looks around, he cries with glee,
 These bounding prospects all were made for me :
 For me yon waving fields their burthen bear,
 For me yon labourer guides the shining share,
 While happy I in idle ease recline,
 And mark the glorious visions as they shine.
 This is the charm, by sages often told,
 Converting all it touches into gold.
 Content can sooth, where'er by fortune placed,
 Can rear a garden in the desert waste.

How lovely, from this hill's superior height,
 Spreads the wide view before my straining sight !
 O'er many a varied mile of lengthening ground,
 Even to the blue-ridged hill's remotest bound,
 My ken is borne ; while o'er my head serene,
 The silver moon illumines the misty scene ;
 Now shining clear, now darkening in the glade,
 In all the soft varieties of shade.

Behind me, lo ! the peaceful hamlet lies,
 The drowsy god has seal'd the cotter's eyes.
 No more, where late the social faggot blazed,
 The vacant peal resounds, by little raised,
 But lock'd in silence, o'er Arion's * star
 The slumbering Night rolls on her velvet car :

* The constellation Delphinus. For authority for this appellation, vide Ovid's Fasti, B. xl. 113.

The church-bell tolls, deep-sounding down the glade,
The solemn hour for walking spectres made !
The simple plough-boy, wakening with the sound,
Listens aghast, and turns him startled round,
Then stops his ears, and strives to close his eyes,
Lest at the sound some grisly ghost should rise.
Now ceased the long, the monitory toll,
Returning silence stagnates in the soul ;
Save when, disturb'd by dreams, with wild affright,
The deep-mouth'd mastiff bays the troubled night :
Or where the village ale-house crowns the vale,
The creaking sign-post whistles to the gale,
A little onward let me bend my way,
Where the moss'd seat invites the traveller's stay.
That spot, oh ! yet it is the very same,
That hawthorn gives it shade, and gave it name :
There yet the primrose opes its earliest bloom,
There yet the violet sheds its first perfume,
And in the branch that rears above the rest
The robin unmolested builds its nest.
'Twas here, when Hope, presiding o'er my breast,
In vivid colours every prospect drest :
'Twas here, reclining, I indulged her dreams,
And lost the hour in visionary schemes.
Here, as I press once more the ancient seat,
Why, bland deceiver ! not renew the cheat ?
Say, can a few short years this change achieve,
That thy allusions can no more deceive ?
Time's sombrous tints have every view o'erspread,
And thou too, gay Seducer ! art thou fled ?
Though vain thy promise, and the suit severe,
Yet thou could'st guile Misfortune of her tear,
And oft thy smiles across life's gloomy way
Could throw a gleam of transitory day.
How gay, in youth, the flattering future seems !
How sweet in manhood is the infant's dreams !
The dire mistake too soon is brought to light,
And all is buried in redoubled night.
Yet some can rise superior to their pain,
And in their breasts the charmer Hope retain :
While others, dead to feeling, can survey,
Unmoved, their fairest prospects fade away :

But yet a few there be, — too soon o'ercast !
Who shrink unhappy from the adverse blast,
And woo the first bright gleam, which breaks the
 gloom,
To gild the silent slumbers of the tomb.
So in these shades the early primrose blows,
Too soon deceived by suns and melting snows ;
So falls untimely on the desert waste,
Its blossoms withering in the northern blast.

Now press'd whate'er the upland heights display,
Down the steep cliff I wind my devious way,
Oft rousing, as the rustling path I beat,
The timid hare from its accusom'd seat.
And, oh ! how sweet this walk, o'erhung with wood,
That winds the margin of the solemn flood !
What rural objects steal upon the sight !
What rising views prolong the calm delight !
The brooklet branching from the silver Trent,
The whispering birch by every zephyr bent,
The woody island, and the naked mead,
The lowly hut half hid in groves of reed,
The rural wicket, and the rural stile,
And, frequent inter-perd, the woodman's pile.
Above, below, where'er I turn my eyes,
Rocks, waters, woods, in grand succession rise ;
High up the cliff the varied groves ascend,
And mournful larches o'er the wave impend.
Around, what sounds, what magic sounds, arise !
What glimm'ring scenes salute my ravish'd eyes !
Soft sleep the waters on their pebbly bed,
The woods wave gently o'er my drooping head,
And swelling slow, comes wafted on the wind,
Lorn Progne's note from distant copse behind.
Still, every rising sound of calm delight
Stamps but the fearful silence of the night,
Save when is heard, between each dreary rest,
Discordant from her solitary nest,
The owl, dull-screaming to the wandering moon ;
Now riding, cloud-wrapt, near her highest noon,
Or when the wild-duck, southering, hither rides,
And plunges sullen in the sounding tides.

How oft, in this sequester'd spot, when youth
 Gave to each tale the holy force of truth,
 Have I long linger'd, while the milk-maid sung
 The tragic legend, till the woodland rung !
 That tale, so sad ! which, still to Memory dear,
 From its sweet source can call the sacred tear,
 And (lull'd to rest stern Reason's harsh control)
 Steal its soft magic to the passive soul
 These hallow'd shades,—these trees that woo the
 wind,
 Recall its faintest features to my mind.

A hundred passing years, with march sublime,
 Have swept beneath the silent wing of time,
 Since, in yon hamlet's solitary shade,
 Reclusely dwelt the far-famed Clifton Maid,
 The beauteous MARGARET ; for her each swain
 Confest in private his peculiar pain,
 In secret sigh'd, a victim to despair,
 Nor dared to hope to win the peerless fair.
 No more the shepherd on the blooming mead
 Attuned to gaiety his artless reed ,
 No more entwined the pangsied wreath, to deck
 His favourite wether's unpolluted neck :
 But listless, by yon babbling stream reclined,
 He mix'd his sobbings with the passing wind,
 Bemoan'd his helpless love ; or, boldly bent,
 Far from these smiling fields a rover went,
 O'er distant lands, in search of ease, to roam,
 A self-will'd exile from his native home.

Yet not to all the maid express'd disdain ;
 Her BATEMAN loved, nor loved the youth in vain.
 Full oft, low whispering o'er these arching boughs,
 The echoing vault responded to their vows,
 As here, deep hidden from the glare of day,
 Enamour'd oft, they took their secret way.

Yon bosky dingle, still the rustics name ;
 'Twas there the blushing maid confess'd her flame :
 Down yon green lane they oft were seen to me,
 When evening slumber'd on the western sky.

That blasted yew, that mouldering walnut bare,
Each bears memento of the fated pair.

One eve, when Autumn loaded every breeze
With the fallen honours of the mourning trees,
The maiden waited at the accustom'd bower,
And waited long beyond the appointed hour,
Yet Bateman came not ; — o'er the woodland drear,
Howling portentous, did the winds career ;
And bleak and dismal on the leafless woods,
The fitful rain rush'd down in sullen floods ;
The night was dark , as, now-and-then, the gale
Paused for a moment, — Margaret listen'd, pale ;
But through the covert to her anxious ear,
No rustling footstep spoke her lover near.
Strange fears now filled her breast, — she knew not
why ;

She sigh'd, and Bateman's name was in each sigh.
She hears a noise, — 'tis he, — he comes at last ; —
Alas ! 'twas but the gale which hurried past :
But now she hears a quickening footstep sound,
Lightly it comes, and nearer does it bound ;
'Tis Bateman's self, — he springs into her arms,
'Tis he that clasps, and chides her vain alarms.
" Yet why this silence ? — I have waited long,
" And the cold storm has yell'd the trees among
" And now thou'rt here my fears are fled — yet speak,
" Why does the salt tear moisten on thy cheek ?
" Say, what is wrong ? " — Now, through a parting
cloud,

The pale moon peer'd from her tempestuous shroud,
And Bateman's face was seen : — 'twas deadly white,
And sorrow seem'd to sicken in his sight.
" Oh, speak, my love ! " again the maid conjured ;
" Why is thy heart in sullen woe immured ? "
He rais'd his head, and thrice essay'd to tell,
Thrice from his lips the unfinish'd accents fell ;
When thus at last reluctantly he broke
His boding silence, and the maid bespoke :
" Grieve not, my love, but ere the morn advance
" I on these fields must cast my parting glance ;

" For three long years, by cruel fate's command,
 " I go to languish in a foreign land
 " O Margaret! omens dire have met my view;
 " Say, when far distant, wilt thou bear me true?
 " Should honours tempt thee, and should riches see,
 " Would'st thou forget thine ardent vows to me,
 " And, on the silken couch of wealth reclined,
 " Banish thy faithful Bateman from thy mind?"

" Oh! why," replies the maid, " my faith thus
 " prove?

" Canst thou! ah, canst thou, then, suspect my love?
 " Hear me, just God! if from my traitorous heart,
 " My Bateman's fond remembrance e'er shall part,
 " If, when he hail again his native shore,
 " He finds his Margaret true to him no more,
 " May fiends of hell, and every power of dread,
 " Conjoin'd, then drag me from my perjured bed,
 " And hurl me headlong down these awful steep,
 " To find deserved death in yonder deeps!"*

Thus spake the maid, and from her finger drew
 A golden ring, and broke it quick in two;
 One half she in her lovely bosom hides,
 The other, trembling, to her love confides.
 " This bind the vow," she said; " this mystic charm
 " No future recantation can disarm;
 " The rite vindictive does the fates involve;
 " No tears can move it, no regrets dissolve."

She ceased. The death-bird gave a dismal cry,
 The river moan'd, the wild gale whistled by,
 And once again the lady of the night
 Behind a heavy cloud withdrew her light.
 Trembling she view'd these portents with dismay,
 But gently Bateman kiss'd her fears away:
 Yet still he felt conceal'd a secret smart,
 Still melancholy bodings fill'd his heart.

When to the distant land the youth was sped,
 A lonely life the moody maiden led.

* This part of the Trent is commonly called "*The Clifton Deep*."

Still would she trace each dear, each well-known
walk,
Still by the moonlight to her love would talk,
And fancy, as she paced among the trees,
She heard his whispers in the dying breeze.
Thus two years glided on in silent grief;
The third her bosom own'd the kind relief:
Absence had cool'd her love, — the impoverish'd
flame
Was dwindling fast, when, lo! the tempter came;
He offer'd wealth, and all the joys of life,
And the weak maid became another's wife!
Six guilty months had mark'd the false one's crime,
When Bateman hail'd once more his native clime.
Sure of her constancy, elate he came,
The lovely partner of his soul to claim;
Light was his heart, as up the well-known way
He bent his steps — and all his thoughts were gay.
Oh! who can paint his agonizing throes,
When on his ear the fatal news arose!
Chill'd with amazement, — senseless with the blow,
He stood a marble monument of woe;
Till call'd to all the horrors of despair,
He smote his brow, and tore his horrent hair;
Then rush'd impetuous from the dreadful spot,
And sought those scenes, (by memory ne'er forgot,)
Those scenes, the witness of their growing flame,
And now like witnesses of Margaret's shame.
'Twas night — he sought the river's lonely shore,
And traced again their former wanderings o'er.
Now on the bank in silent grief he stood,
And gazed intently on the stealing flood,
Death in his mien and madness in his eye,
He watch'd the waters as they murmur'd by;
Bade the base murderess triumph o'er his grave —
Prepared to plunge into the whelming wave:
Yet still he stood irresolutely bent,
Religion sternly stay'd his rash intent.
He knelt. — Cool play'd upon his cheek the wind,
And fann'd the fever of his maddening mind;
The willows waved, the stream it sweetly swept,
The paly moonbeam on its surface slept,

HENRY KIRKE WHITE.

And all was peace ; — he felt a calm
O'er his rack'd bosom shed a genial balm ;
When casting far behind his streaming eye,
He saw the Grove, — in fancy saw *her* lie,
His Margaret, lull'd in Germain's* arms to rest,
And all the demon rose within his breast.
Convulsive now, he clench'd his trembling hand,
Cast his dark eye once more upon the land,
Then, at one spring, he spurn'd the yielding bank,
And in the calm deceitful current sank.

Sad, on the solitude of night, the sound,
As in the stream he plunged, was heard around :
Then all was still — the wave was rough no more,
The river swept as sweetly as before ;
The willows waved, the moonbeams shone serene,
And peace returning brooded o'er the scene.

Now, see upon the perjured fair one hang
Remorse's glooms and never-ceasing pang :
Full well she knew, repentant now too late,
She soon must bow beneath the stroke of fate.
But, for the babe she bore beneath her breast,
The offended God prolong'd her life unblest.
But fast the fleeting moments roll'd away,
And near, and nearer drew the dreaded day ;
That day, foredoom'd to give her child the light,
And hurl its mother to the shades of night.
The hour arrived, and from the wretched wife
The guiltless baby struggled into life. —
As night drew on, around her bed a band
Of friends and kindred kindly took their stand ;
In holy prayer they pass'd the creeping time,
Intent to expiate her awful crime.
Their prayers were fruitless. — As the midnight came,
A heavy sleep oppress'd each weary frame ;
In vain they strove against the o'erwhelming load,
Some power unseen their drowsy lids bestrode.
They slept, till in the blushing eastern sky
The blooming Morning oped her dewy eye ;

* Germain is the traditional name of her husband.

Then wakening wide they sought the ravish'd bed,
 But, lo! the hapless Margaret was fled;
 And never more the weeping train were doom'd
 To view the false one, in the deeps entomb'd.

The neighbouring rustics told that in the night
 They heard such screams as froze them with affright;
 And many an infant, at its mother's breast,
 Started, dismay'd, from its unthinking rest.
 And even now, upon the heath forlorn,
 They show the path down which the fair was borne
 By the fell demon, to the yawning wave,
 Her own, and murder'd lover's mutual grave.

Such is the tale, so sad, to memory dear,
 Which oft in youth has charm'd my listening ear,
 That tale, which bade me find redoubled sweets
 In the drear silence of these dark retreats,
 And even now, with melancholy power,
 Adds a new pleasure to the lonely hour.
 'Mid all the charms by magic nature given
 To this wild spot, this sublunary heaven,
 With double joy enthusiast Fancy leans
 On the attendant legend of the scenes.
 This sheds a fairy lustre on the floods,
 And breathes a mellow gloom upon the woods;
 This, as the distant cataract swells around,
 Gives a romantic cadence to the sound;
 This, and the deep'ning glen, the alley green,
 The silver stream, with sedge tufts between,
 The massy rock, the wood-encompass'd leas,
 The broom-clad islands, and the nodding trees,
 The lengthening vista, and the present gloom,
 The verdant pathway breathing waste perfume;
 These are thy charms, 'the joys which these impart
 Bind thee, blest Clifton! close around my heart.

Dear Native Grove! where'er my devious track,
 To thee will Memory lead the wanderer back,
 Whether in Arno's polish'd vales I stray,
 Or where "Oswego's swamps" obstruct the day;
 Or wander lone, where 'wildering and wide,
 The tumbling torrent laves St. Gothard's side;

Or by old Tejo's classic margent muse,
 Or stand entranced with Pyrenean views ;
 Still, still to thee, where'er my footsteps roam,
 My heart shall point, and lead the wanderer home.

When Splendour offers, and when Fame incites,
 I'll pause, and think of all thy dear delights,
 Reject the boon, and, wearied with the change,
 Renounce the wish which first induced to range ;
 Turn to these scenes, these well known scenes once
 more,

Trace once again old Trent's romantic shore,
 And, tired with worlds, and all their busy ways,
 Here waste the little remnant of my days.
 But, if the Fates should this last wish deny,
 And doom me on some foreign shore to die ;
 Oh ! should it please the world's supernal King,
 That weltering waves my funeral dirge shall sing ;
 Or that my course should, on some desert strand,
 Lie stretch'd beneath the Simoom's blasting hand ;
 Still, though unwept I find a stranger tomb,
 My sprite shall wander through this favourite gloom,
 Ride on the wind that sweeps the leafless grove,
 Sigh on the wood-blast of the dark alcove,
 Sit, a lorn spectre, on yon well-known grave,
 And mix its moanings with the desert wave.



MISCELLANEOUS POEMS.



GONDOLINE.

A BALLAD.

THE night it was still, and the moon it shone
 Serenely on the sea,
 And the waves at the foot of the rifted rock
 They murmur'd pleasantly,

When Gondoline roam'd along the shore,
A maiden full fair to the sight ;
Though love had made bleak the rose on her cheek,
And turn'd it to deadly white.

Her thoughts they were drear, and the silent tear
It fill'd her faint blue eye,
As oft she heard, in Fancy's ear,
Her Bertrand's dying sigh.

Her Bertrand was the bravest youth
Of all our good King's men,
And he was gone to the Holy Land
To fight the Saracen.

And many a month had pass'd away,
And many a rolling year,
But nothing the maid from Palestine
Could of her lover hear.

Full oft she vainly tried to pierce
The Ocean's misty face ;
Full oft she thought her lover's bark
She on the wave could trace.

And every night she placed a light
In the high rock's lonely tower,
To guide her lover to the land,
Should the murky tempest lower.

But now despair had seized her breast,
And sunken in her eye :
" Oh ! tell me but if Bertrand live,
" And I in peace will die."

She wander'd o'er the lonely shore,
The curlew scream'd above,
She heard the scream with a sickening heart
Much boding of her love.

Yet still she kept her lonely way,
And this was all her cry,
" Oh ! tell me but if Bertrand live,
" And I in peace shall die."

And now she came to a horrible rift,
All in the rock's hard side,
A bleak and blasted oak o'erspread
The cavern yawning wide.

And pendant from its dismal top
The deadly nightshade hung ;
The hemlock and the aconite
Across the mouth were hung.

And all within was dark and drear,
And all without was calm ;
Yet Gondoline enter'd, her soul upheld
By some deep-working charm.

And as she enter'd the cavern wide,
The moon-beam gleamed pale,
And she saw a snake on the craggy rock,
It clung by its slimy tail.

Her foot it slipp'd, and she stood aghast,
She trod on a bloated toad ;
Yet, still upheld by the secret charm,
She kept upon her road.

And now upon her frozen ear
Mysterious sounds arose ;
So, on the mountain's piny top,
The blustering north-wind blows.

Then furious peals of laughter loud
Were heard with thundering sound,
Till they died away in soft decay,
Low whispering o'er the ground.

Yet still the maiden onward went,
The charm yet onward led,
Though each big glaring ball of sight
Seem'd bursting from her head.

But now a pale blue light she saw,
It from a distance came,
She follow'd, till upon her sight,
Burst full a flood of flame.

She stood appal'd ; yet still the charm
Upheld her sinking soul ;
Yet each bent knee the other smote,
And each wild eye did roll.

And such a sight as she saw there,
No mortal saw before,
And such a sight as she saw there,
No mortal shall see more.

A burning cauldron stood in the midst,
The flame was fierce and high,
And all the cave so wide and long,
Was plainly seen thereby.

And round about the cauldron stout
Twelve withered witches stood :
Their waists were bound with living snakes,
And their hair was stiff with blood.

Their hands were gory too ; and red
And fiercely flamed their eyes :
And they were muttering indistinct
Their hellish mysteries.

And suddenly they join'd their hands,
And uttered a joyous cry,
And round about the cauldron stout
They danced right merrily.

And now they stopt ; and each prepared
To tell what she had done,
Since last the Lady of the night
Her waning course had run.

Behind a rock stood Gondoline,
Thick weeds her face did veil,
And she lean'd fearful forwarder,
To hear the dreadful tale.

The first arose : She said she'd seen
Rare sport since the blind cat mew'd,
She'd been to sea in a leaky sieve,
And a jovial storm had brew'd.

She call'd around the winged winds,
And rais'd a devilish rout ;
And she laugh'd so loud, the peals were heard
Full fifteen leagues about.

She said there was a little bark
Upon the roaring wave,
And there was a woman there who'd been
To see her husband's grave.

And she had got a child in her arms,
It was her only child,
And oft its little infant pranks
Her heavy heart beguiled.

And there was too, in that same bark,
A father and his son ;
The lad was sickly, and the sire
Was old and woe-begone.

And when the tempest waxed strong,
And the bark could no more it bide,
She said it was jovial fun to hear
How the poor devils cried.

The mother clasp'd her orphan child
Unto her breast, and wept ;
And, sweetly folded in her arms,
The careless baby slept.

And she told how, in the shape o' the wind,
As manfully it roar'd,
She twisted her hand in the infant's hair
And threw it overboard.

And to have seen the mother's pangs
'Twas a glorious sight to see ; -
The crew could scarcely hold her down
From jumping in the sea.

The hag held a lock of the hair in her hand,
And it was soft and fair :
It must have been a lovely child,
To have had such lovely hair.

And she said, the father in his arms
He held his sickly son,
And his dying throes they fast arose,
His pains were nearly done.

And she throttled the youth with her sinewy hands,
And his face grew deadly blue :
And his father he tore his thin grey hair,
And kiss'd the livid hue.

And then she told, how she bored a hole
In the bark, and it fill'd away :
And 'twas rare to hear, how some did swear,
And some did vow and pray.

The man and woman they soon were dead,
The sailors their strength did urge ;
But the billows that beat were their winding-sheet,
And the winds sung their funeral dirge.

She threw the infant's hair in the fire,
The red flame flamed high,
And round about the cauldron stout
They danced right merrily.

The second began : She said she had done
The task that Queen Hecat' had set her,
And that the devil, the father of evil,
Had never accomplish'd a better.

She said, there was an aged woman,
And she had a daughter fair,
Whose evil habits fill'd her heart
With misery and care.

The daughter had a paramour,
A wicked man was he,
And oft the woman him against
Did murmur grievously.

And the hag had worked the daughter up
To murder her old mother,
That then she might seize on all her goods,
And wanton with her lover.

And one night as the old woman
Was sick and ill in bed,
And pondering sorely on the life
Her wicked daughter led,

She heard her footsteps on the floor,
And she raised her pallid head,
And she saw her daughter, with a knife,
Approaching to her bed.

And said, " My child, I'm very ill,
" I have not long to live ;
" Now kiss my cheek, that ere I die
" Thy sins I may forgive."

And the murderers bent to kiss her cheek,
And she lifted the sharp bright knife,
And the mother saw her full intent,
And hard she begg'd for life.

But prayers would nothing her avail,
And she scream'd aloud with fear,
But the house was lone, and the piercing screams
Could reach no human ear.

And though that she was sick, and old,
She struggled hard, and fought ;
The murderess cut three fingers through
Ere she could reach her throat.

And the hag she held the fingers up,
The skin was mangled sore,
And they all agreed a nobler deed
Was never done before.

And she threw the fingers in the fire,
The red flame flamed high,
And round about the cauldron stout
They danced right merrily.

The third arose : She said she'd been
To Holy Palestine ;
And seen more blood in one short day,
Than they had all seen in nine.

Now Gondoline, with fearful steps,
Drew nearer to the flame,
For much she dreaded now to hear :
Her hapless lover's name.

The hag related then the sports
Of that eventful day,
When on the well-contested field
Full fifteen thousand lay.

She said that she in human gore
Above the knee did wade,
And that no tongue could truly tell
The trick she there had play'd.

There was a gallant-featured youth,
Who like a hero fought ;
He kiss'd a bracelet on his wrist,
And every danger sought.

And in a vassal's garb disguised,
Unto the knight she sues,
And tells him she from Britain comes,
And brings unwelcome news.

That three days ere she had embark'd,
His love had given her hand
Unto a wealthy Thane : — and thought
Him dead in Holy Land.

And to have seen how he did writhe
When this her tale she told,
It would have made a wizard's blood
Within his heart run cold.

Then fierce he spurr'd his warrior steed,
And sought the battle's bed :
And soon all mangled o'er with wounds,
He on the cold turf bled.

And from his smoking corse she tore
His head, half clove in two ;
She ceased, and from beneath her garb
The bloody trophy drew.

The eyes were starting from their sockets,
The mouth it ghastly grin'd,
And there was a gash across the brow,
The scalp was nearly skinn'd.

'Twas BERTRAND'S HEAD!! With a terrible scream,
The maiden gave a spring,
And from her fearful hiding-place
She fell into the ring.

The lights they fled — the cauldron sunk,
Deep thunders shook the dome,
And hollow peals of laughter came
Resounding through the gloom.

Insensible the maiden lay
Upon the hellish ground,
And still mysterious sounds were heard
At intervals around.

She woke — she half arose, — and wild,
She cast a horrid glare;
The sounds had ceased, the lights had fled,
And all was stillness there.

And through an awning in the rock,
The moon it sweetly shone,
And show'd a river in the cave
Which dismally did mean.

The stream was black, it sounded deep,
As it rush'd the rocks between,
It offer'd well, for madness fired
The breast of Goadolme.

She plunged in, the torrent moan'd
With its accustom'd sound,
And hollow peals of laughter loud
Again rebellow'd round.

The maid was seen no more. — But oft
Her ghost is known to glide,
At midnight's silent solemn hour,
Along the ocean's side.

LINES

WRITTEN ON A SURVEY OF THE HEAVENS, IN THE
MORNING BEFORE DAY-BREAK.

Ye many twinkling stars, who yet do hold
Your brilliant places in the sable vault
Of night's dominions ! — Planets, and central orbs
Of other systems ; — big as the burning sun
Which lights this nether globe, — yet to our eye
Small as the glow-worm's lamp ! — To you I raise
My lowly orisons, while, all bewilder'd,
My vision strays o'er your ethereal hosts ;
Too vast, too boundless for our narrow mind,
Warp'd with low prejudices, to unfold,
And sagely comprehend. Thence higher soaring,
Through ye I raise my solemn thoughts to Him,
The mighty Founder of this wondrous maze,
The great Creator ! Him ! who now sublime,
Wrapt in the solitary amplitude
Of boundless space, above the rolling spheres
Sits on his silent throne, and meditates.

The angelic hosts, in their inferior Heaven,
Hymn to the golden harps his praise sublime,
Repeating loud, " The Lord our God is great,"
In varied harmonies. — The glorious sounds
Roll o'er the air serene — the Æolian spheres,
Harping along their viewless boundaries,
Catch the full note, and cry, " The Lord is great,"
Responding to the Seraphim. — O'er all,
From orb to orb, to the remotest verge
Of the created world, the sound is borne,
Till the whole universe is full of Him.

Oh ! 'tis this heavenly harmony which now
In fancy strikes upon my listening ear,
And thrills my inmost soul. It bids me smile
On the vain world, and all its bustling cares,
And gives a shadowy glimpse of future bliss.
Oh ! what is man, when at ambition's height,

What even are kings, when balanced in the scale
Of these stupendous worlds? Almighty God!
Thou, the dread Author of these wondrous works!
Say, canst thou cast on me, poor passing worm,
One look of kind benevolence? — Thou canst,
For Thou art full of universal love,
And in thy boundless goodness wilt impart
Thy beams as well to me as to the proud,
The pageant insects of a glittering hour.

Oh! when reflecting on these truths sublime,
How insignificant do all the joys,
The gaudes, and honours of the world appear!
How vain ambition! — Why has my wakeful lamp
Outwatch'd the slow-paced night? — Why on the
page,

The schoolman's labour'd page, have I employ'd
The hours devoted by the world to rest,
And needful to recruit exhausted nature?
Say, can the voice of narrow Fame repay
The loss of health? or can the hope of glory
Lend a new throb unto my languid heart,
Cool, even now, my feverish aching brow,
Relume the fires of this deep-sunken eye,
Or paint new colours on this pallid cheek?

Say, foolish one — can that unbodied fame,
For which thou barterest health and happiness,
Say, can it sooth the slumbers of the grave?
Give a new zest to bliss, or chase the pangs
Of everlasting punishment condign?
Alas! how vain are mortal man's desires!
How fruitless his pursuits! Eternal God!
Guide Thou my footsteps in the way of truth,
And oh! assist me so to live on earth,
That I may die in peace, and claim a place
In thy high dwelling. — All but this is folly,
The vain illusions of deceitful life.

LINES,

SUPPOSED TO BE SPOKEN BY A LOVER AT THE GRAVE
OF HIS MISTRESS.

Occasioned by a Situation in a Romance.

MARY, the moon is sleeping on thy grave,
And on the turf thy lover sad is kneeling,
The big tear in his eye. — Mary, awake,
From thy dark house arise, and bless his sight
On the pale moonbeam gliding. Soft, and low,¹
Pour on the silver ear of night thy tale,
Thy whisper'd tale of comfort and of love,
To sooth thy Edward's lorn, distracted soul,
And cheer his breaking heart.—Come, as thou didst,
When o'er the barren moors the night-wind howl'd,
And the deep thunders shook the ebony throne
Of the startled night.—Oh ! then, as lone reclining,
I listen'd sadly to the dismal storm,
Thou on the lambent lightnings wild careering
Didst strike my moody eye ; — dead pale thou wert,
Yet passing lovely. — Thou didst smile upon me,
And, oh ! thy voice it rose so musical,
Betwixt the hollow pauses of the storm,
That at the sound the winds forgot to rave,
And the stern demon of the tempest, charm'd,
Sunk on his rocking throne to still repose,
Lock'd in the arms of silence.

Spirit of her !

My only love ! — Oh ! now again arise,
And let once more thine æry accents fall
Soft on my listening ear. The night is calm,
The gloomy willows wave in sinking cadence
With the stream that sweeps below. Divinely
 swelling
On the still air, the distant waterfall
Mingles its melody ; — and, high above,
The pensive empress of the solemn night,
Fitful, emerging from the rapid clouds,
Shows her chaste face in the meridian sky.

No wicked elves upon the *Warlock-knoll*
 Dare now assemble at their mystic revels ;
 It is a night, when from their primrose beds
 The gentle ghosts of injured innocents
 Are known to rise, and wander on the breeze,
 Or take their stand by the oppressor's couch,
 And strike grim terror to his guilty soul
 As spirit of my love might now awake,
 And hold its custom'd converse.

Mary, lo !

Thy Edward kneels upon thy verdant grave,
 And calls upon thy name — The breeze that blows
 On his wan cheek will soon sweep over him,
 In solemn music, a funereal dirge
 Wild and most sorrowful — His cheek is pale ;
 The worm that play'd upon thy youthful bloom,
 It canker'd green on his. — Now lost he stands,
 The ghost of what he was, and the cold dew
 Which bathes his aching temples gives sure omen
 Of speedy dissolution — Mary, soon
 Thy love will lay his pallid cheek to thine,
 And sweetly will he sleep with thee in death.

MY STUDY.

A Letter in Hudibrastic Verse.

You bid me, Ned, describe the place
 Where I, one of the rhyming race,
 Pursue my studies *con amore*,
 And wanton with the muse in glory.

Tell : figure to your senses straight,
 Upon the house's topmost height,
 A closet, just six feet by four,
 With whitewash'd walls and plaster floor,
 So nobly large, 'tis scarcely able
 To admit a single chair and table ;
 And (lest the muse should die with cold)
 A smoky grate my fire to hold,

So wondrous small, 'twould much it pose
To melt the ice-drop on one's nose;
And yet so big, it covers o'er
Full half the spacious room and more.

A window vainly stuff'd about,
To keep November's breezes out,
So crazy, that the panes proclaim
That soon they mean to leave the frame.

My furniture I sure may crack : —
A broken chair without a back ;
A table wanting just two legs,
One end sustain'd by wooden pegs ;
A desk — of that I am not servent,
The work of, Sir, your humble servant,
(Who, though I say't, am no such fumbler ;)
A glass decanter and a tumbler,
From which my night-parch'd throat I lave,
Luxurious, with the limpid wave.
A chest of drawers, in antique sections,
And saw'd by me in all directions —
So small, Sir, that whoever views 'em
Swears nothing but a doll could use 'em.
To these, if you will add a store
Of oddities upon the floor, —
A pair of globes, electric balls,
Scales, quadrants, prisms, and cobbler's awls,
And crowds of books, on rotten shelves,
Octavos, folios, quartos, twelves, —
I think, dear Ned, you curious dog,
You'll have my earthly catalogue.
But stay, — I nearly had left out
My bellows destitute of snout ;
And on the walls, — Good Heavens ! why there
I've such a load of precious ware,
Of heads, and coins, and silver medals,
And organ works, and broken pedals,
(For I was once a-building music,
Though soon of that employ I grew sick,)
And skeletons of laws which shoot
All out of one primordial root ;

That you, at such a sight, would swear
Confusion's self had settled there.
There stands, just by a broken sphere,
A Cicero without an ear ;
A neck, on which, by logic good,
I know for sure a head *once* stood ;
But who it was the abler master
Had moulded in the mimic plaster —
Whether 'twas Pope, or Coke, or Burn —
I never yet could justly learn :
But knowing well, that any head
Is made to answer for the dead,
(And sculptors first their faces frame,
And after pitch upon a name,
Nor think it aught of a misnomer
To christen Chaucer's busto Homer,
Because they both have beards, which, you know,
Will mark them well from Joan and Juno,)
For some great man, I could not tell
But Neck might answer just as well,
So perch'd it up, all in a row
With Chatham and with Cicero.

Then all around, in just degree,
A range of portraits you may see,
Of mighty men, and *ele* of women,
Who are no whit inferior *to* men.

With these fair dames and heroes round,
I call my garret classic ground ;
For though confined, 'twill well contain
The ideal flights of Madam Brain.
No dungeon's walls, no cell confined,
Can cramp the energies of mind !
Thus, though my heart may seem so small,
I've friends, and 'twill contain them all ;
And should it e'er become so cold
That these it will no longer hold,
No more may Heaven her blessings give —
I shall not then be fit to live.

TO AN EARLY PRIMROSE.

MILD offspring of a dark and sullen sire !
Whose modest form, so delicately fine,
Was nursed in whirling storms,
And cradled in the winds.

Thee, when young Spring first question'd Winter's
 sway,
And dared the sturdy blust'rer to the fight,
Thee on this bank he threw
To mark his victory.

In this low vale the promise of the year,
Serene thou openest to the nipping gale,
Unnoticed and alone,
Thy tender elegance.

So virtue blooms, brought forth amid the storms
Of chill adversity : in some lone walk
Of life she rears her head,
Obscure and unobserved ;

While every bleaching breeze that on her blows,
Chastens her spotless purity of breast,
And hardens her to bear
Serene the ills of life.

SONNETS.

SONNET I.

To the River Trent. Written on Recovery from Sickness

Once more, O TRENT ! along thy pebbly marge
A penive invalid, reduced and pale,
From the close sick-room newly let at large,
Wooes to his wan-worn cheek the pleasant gale.
Oh ! to his ear how musical the tale
Which fills with joy the thrush's little throat !
And all the sounds which on the fresh breeze sail,
How wildly novel on his senses float !
It was on this that many a sleepless night,
As, lone, he watch'd the taper's sickly gleam,
And at his casement heard, with wild affright,
The owl's dull wung and melancholy scream —
On this he thought — this, thus, his sole desire,
Thus once again to hear the warbling woodland choir

SONNET II.

GIVE me a cottage on some Cambrian wild,
Where, far from cities, I may spend my days,
And, by the beauties of the scene beguiled,
May pity man's pursuits, and shun his ways.
While on the rock I mark the browsing goat,
List to the mountain-torrent's distant noise,
Or the hoarse battern's solitary note,
I shall not want the world's delusive joys ;
But with my little scrip, my book, my lyre,
Shall think my lot complete, nor covet more ;
And when, with time, shall wane the vital fire,
I'll raise my pillow on the desert shore,
And lay me down to rest where the wild wave
Shall make sweet music o'er my lonely grave.

SONNET III.*

Supposed to have been addressed by a Female Lunatic to a Lady.

LADY, thou weepest for the Maniac's woe ;[†]

And thou art fair, and thou, like me, art young :
Oh ! may thy bosom never, never know

The pangs with which my wretched heart is wrung.
I had a mother once — a brother too —

(Beneath yon yew my father rests his head :)
I had a lover once, — and kind, and true ;

But mother, brother, lover, all are fled !

Yet, whence the tear which dims thy lovely eye ?
Oh ! gentle lady — not for me thus weep ;

The green sod soon upon my breast will lie,
And soft and sound will be my peaceful sleep.

Go thou, and pluck the roses while they bloom —
My hopes lie buried in the silent tomb.

SONNET IV.

Supposed to be written by the unhappy Poet, Permeley, in a Storm, while on board a Ship in His Majesty's Service.

Lo ! o'er the welkin the tempestuous clouds

Successive fly, and the loud-raping wind

Rocks the poor sea-boy on the dripping shrouds,

While the pale pilot, o'er the helm reclined,

Lists to the changeful storm ; and as he plies

His wakeful task, he oft bethinks him sad,

Of wife, and little home, and chubby lad,

And the half-strangled tear bedews his eyes : *

I, on the deck, musing on themes forlorn,

View the drear tempest, and the yawning deep,

Nought dreading in the green sea's caves to sleep ;

For not for me shall wife or children mourn,

And the wild winds will ring my funeral knell

Sweetly as solemn peal of pious passing-bell.

* This Quaternaria had its rise from an elegant Sonnet, " occasioned by seeing a young Female Lunatic," written by Mrs. Loft, and published in the Monthly Mirror.

SONNET V.

THE WINTER TRAVELLER.

God help thee, Traveller, on thy journey far!
 The wind is bitter keen — the snow o'erlays
 The hidden pits and dangerous hollow ways —
 And darkness will involve thee. — No kind star
 To-night will guide thee, Traveller, — and the war
 Of winds and elements on thy head will break,
 And in thy agonizing ear the shriek
 Of spirits howling on their stormy car
 Will often ring appalling. — I portend
 A dismal night — and on my wakeful bed,
 Thoughts, Traveller, of thee, will fill my head,
 And him who rides where winds and waves contend,
 And struts, rude cradled on the seas, to guide
 His lonely bark through the tempestuous tide.

SONNET VI.

BY CAPEL LOFFT, ESQ.

This Sonnet was addressed to the Author of this Volume, and was occasioned by several little Quatrains, misnomered Sonnets, which he published in the Monthly Mirror. He begs leave to return his thanks to the much-respected writer for the permission so politely granted to insert it here, and for the good opinion he has been pleased to express of his productions.

Ye, whose aspirings court the muse of lays,
 "Severest of those orders which belong,
 "Distinct and separate, to Delphic song,"
 Why shun the Sonnet's undulating maze?
 And why its name, boast of Petrarchian days,
 Assume, its rules disown'd? whom from the
 throng
 The muse selects, their ear the charm obeys
 Of its full harmony: — they fear to wrong

The *Sonnet*, by adorning with a name
 Of that distinguish'd import, lays, though sweet,
 Yet not in magic texture taught to meet
 Of that so varied and peculiar frame.
 O think ! to vindicate its genuine praise
 Those it beseeems, whose *Lyre* a favouring impulse
 sways.

SONNET VII.

Recantatory, in reply to the foregoing elegant Admonition.

LET the sublimer muse, who, wrapt in night,
 Rides on the raven pennons of the storm,
 Or o'er the field, with purple havoc warm,
 Lashes her steeds, and sings along the flight —
 Let her, whom more ferocious strains delight,
 Disdain the plaintive Sonnet's little form,
 And scorn to its wild cadence to conform
 The impetuous tenour of her hardy flight.
 But me, far lowest of the sylvan train,
 Who wake the wood-nymphs from the forest shade
 With wildest song ; — Me, much behoves thy aid
 Of mingled melody, to grace my strain,
 And give it power to please, as soft it flows
 Through the smooth murmurs of thy frequent close.

SONNET VIII.

On hearing the Sounds of an Æolian Harp.

So ravishingly soft upon the tide
 Of the infuriate gust it did career,
 It might have sooth'd its rugged charioteer,
 And sunk him to a zephyr : — then it died,
 Melting in melody ; — and I descried,
 Borne to some wizard stream, the form appear
 Of druid sage, who on the far-off ear
 Pour'd his lone song, to which the surge replied :

Or thought I heard the hapless pilgrim's knell,
 Lost in some wild enchanted forest's bounds,
 By unseen beings sung ; or are these sounds
 Such, as 'tis said, at night are known to swell
 By startled shepherd on the lonely heath,
 Keeping his night-watch sad, portending death ?

SONNET IX.

WHAT art thou, MIGHTY ONE ? and where thy seat ?
 Thou broodest on the calm that cheers the lands,
 And thou dost bear within thine awful hands
 The rolling thunders and the lightnings fleet ;
 Stern on thy dark-wrought car of cloud and wind
 Thou guidest the northern storm at night's dead
 noon,
 Or on the red wing of the fierce Monsoon
 Disturb'st the sleeping giant of the Ind.
 In the drear silence of the polar span
 Dost thou repose ? or in the solitude
 Of sultry tracts, where the lone caravan
 Hears nightly howl the tiger's hungry brood ?
 Vain thought ! the confines of his throne to trace,
 Who glows through all the fields of boundless space.

A BALLAD.

Be hush'd, be hush'd, ye bitter winds ;
 Ye pelting rains, a little rest ;
 Lie still, lie still, ye busy thoughts,
 That wring with grief my aching breast.

Oh ! cruel was my faithless love,
 To triumph o'er an artless maid ;
 Oh ! cruel was my faithless love,
 To leave the breast by him betray'd.

When exiled from my native home,
He should have wiped the bitter tear ;
Nor left me faint and lone to roam,
A heart-sick weary wand'rer here.

My child moans sadly in my arms ;
The winds they will not let it sleep :
Ah, little knows the hapless babe
What makes its wretched mother weep !

Now lie thee still, my infant dear ;
I cannot bear thy sobs to see :
Harsh is thy father, little one,
And never will he shelter thee.

Oh, that I were but in my grave,
And winds were piping o'er me loud,
And thou, my poor, my orphan babe,
Were nestling in thy mother's shroud !

THE LULLABY

OF A FEMALE CONVICT TO HER CHILD, THE NIGHT
PREVIOUS TO EXECUTION.

SLEEP, Baby mine*, enkerchieft on my bosom ;
Thy cries they pierce again my bleeding breast :
Sleep, baby mine, not long thou'lt have a mother
To lull thee fondly in her arms to rest.

Baby, why dost thou keep this sad complaining ?
Long from mine eyes have kindly slumbers fled :
Hush, hush, my babe, the night is quickly waning,
And I would fain compose my aching head.

Poor wayward wretch ! and who will heed thy weep-
ing,
When soon an outcast on the world thou'lt be ?

* Sir Philip Sidney has a poem beginning, " Sleep, Baby mine."

Who then will sooth thee, when thy mother's sleep-
ing
In her low grave of shame and infamy?

Sleep, baby mine — To-morrow I must leave thee,
And I would snatch an interval of rest :
Sleep these last moments, ere the laws bereave thee ;
For never more thou'lt press a mother's breast.

POEMS

WRITTEN DURING OR SHORTLY AFTER THE
PUBLICATION OF CLIFTON GROVE.

ODE

ADDRESSED TO H. FUSELI, ESQ. R. A.

On seeing Engravings from his Designs.

MIGHTY magician ! who on Torneo's brow,
When sullen tempests wrap the throne of night,
Art wont to sit and catch the gleam of light
That shoots athwart the gloom opaque below ;
And listen to the distant death-shriek long
From lonely mariner foundering in the deep,
Which rises slowly up the rocky steep,
While the weird sisters weave the horrid song :
Or when along the liquid sky
Serenely chaunt the orbs on high,
Dost love to sit in musing trance,
And mark the northern meteor's dance,
(While far below the fitful oar
Flings its faint pauses on the steepy shore,)
And list the music of the breeze
That sweeps by fits the bending seas ;

And often bears with sudden swell
 The shipa-reck'd sailor's funeral knell,
 By the spirits sung, who keep
 Their night-watch on the treacherous deep,
 And guide the wakeful helmsman's eye
 To Helicé in northern sky :
 And there upon the rock inclined,
 With mighty visions fill'st the mind,
 Such as bound in magic spell
 Him * who grasp'd the gates of Hell,
 And bursting Pluto's dark domain,
 Held to the day the terrors of his reign.

Genius of Horror and romantic awe!
 Whose eye explores the secrets of the deep,
 Whose power can bid the rebel fluids creep,
 Can force the inmost soul to own its law ;
 Who shall now, sublimest spirit,
 Who shall now thy wand inherit,
 From him † thy darling child who best
 Thy shuddering images exprest ?
 Sullen of soul, and stern and proud,
 His gloomy spirit spurn'd the crowd,
 And now he lays his aching head
 In the dark mansion of the silent dead.

Mighty magician ! long thy wand has lain
 Buried beneath the unfathomable deep ;
 And, oh ! for ever must its efforts sleep ?
 May none the mystic sceptre e'er regain ?
 Oh yes, 'tis his ! — Thy other son ;
 He throws thy dark-wrought tunic on,
 I'ues-lin waves thy wand, — again they rise,
 Again thy wildering forms salute our ravish'd eyes.
 Him dost thou cradle on the dizzy steep,
 Where round his head the volley'd lightnings
 flung,
 And the loud winds that round his pillow rung,
 Woo'd the stern infant to the arms of sleep.

Or on the highest top of Teneriffe
Seated the fearless boy, and bade him look
Where far below the weather-beaten skiff
On the gulf bottom of the ocean strook.
Thou mark'dst him drink with ruthless ear
The death-sob; and disdaining rest,
Thou saw'st how danger fired his breast,
And in his young hand couch'd the visionary spear.

Then, Superstition, at thy call,
She bore the boy to Odin's hall,
And set before his awe-struck sight
The savage feast and spectred light;
And summon'd from his mountain tomb
The ghastly warrior son of gloom,
His fabled Rune rhymes to sing,
While fierce Hrosvelger flap'd his wing;
Thou show'dst the trains the shepherd sees,
Laid on the stormy Hebrides,
Which on the mists of evening gleam,
Or crowd the foaming desert stream;
Lastly, her storied hand she waves,
And lays him in Florentian caves;
Their milder fables, lovelier themes,
Enwrap his soul in heavenly dreams;
There Pity's lute arrests his ear,
And draws the half-reluctant tear;
And now at noon of night he roves
Along the embowering moonlight groves;
And as from many a cavern'd dell
The hollow wind is heard to swell,
He thinks some troubled spirit sighs;
And as upon the turf he lies,
Where sleeps the silent beam of night,
He sees below the gliding sprite,
And hears in Fancy's organs sound
Ærial music warbling round.

Taste lastly comes, and smooths the whole,
And breathes her polish o'er his soul;
Glowing with wild, yet chasten'd heat,
The wondrous work is now complete.

The Poet dreams : — The shadow flies,
 And fainting fast its image dies.
 But, lo ! the Painter's magic force
 Arrests the phantom's fleeting course ;
 It lives — it lives — the canvass glows,
 And tenfold vigour o'er it flows.

The Bard beholds the work achiev'd,
 And as he sees the shadow rise
 Sublime before his wandering eyes,
 Starts at the image his own mind conceiv'd.

ODE,

ADDRESSED TO THE EARL OF CARLISLE, K. G.

I.

RETIRED, remote from human noise,
 A humble Poet dwelt serene ;
 His lot was lowly, yet his joys
 Were manifold, I ween.
 He laid him by the brawling brook
 At eventide to ruminate,
 He watch'd the swallow skimming round,
 And mused, in reverie profound,
 On wayward man's unhappy state,
 And ponder'd much, and paused on deeds of an-
 cient date.

II. 1.

" Oh, 'twas not always thus," he cried ;
 " There was a time when Genius claim'd
 Respect from even towering Pride,
 Nor hung her head ashamed ;
 But now to Wealth alone we bow ;
 The titled and the rich alone
 Are honour'd, while meek Merit pines,
 On Penury's wretched couch reclines,
 Unheeded in his dying moan,
 As overwhelm'd with want and woe, he sinks un-
 known.

III. 1.

" Yet was the muse not always seen
In Poverty's dejected mien,
Not always did repining rue
And misery her steps pursue.
Time was, when nobles thought their titles graced
By the sweet honours of poetic bays,
When Sydney sung his melting song,
When Sheffield join'd the harmonious throng,
And Lyttleton attuned to love his lays.
Those days are gone — alas, for ever gone!
No more our nobles love to grace
Their brows with anadems, by genius won,
But arrogantly deem the muse as base:
How different thought the sires of this degenerate
race! "

I. 2.

Thus sang the minstrel: — still at eve,
The upland's woody shades among,
In broken measures did he grieve,
With solitary song.
And still his theme was aye the same,
Neglect had stung him to the core;
And he with pensive joy did love
To seek the still congenial grove,
And muse on all his sorrows o'er,
And vow that he would join the abjured world no
more.

II. 2.

But human vows, how frail they be!
Fame brought Carlisle into his view,
And all amazed, he thought to see
The Augustan age anew.
Fill'd with wild rapture, up he rose;
No more he ponders on the woes
Which erst he felt that forward goes,
Regrets he'd sunk in impotence,
And hails the ideal day of virtuous eminence.

III. 2.

Ah! silly man, yet smarting sore,
With ills which in the world he bore,

Again on futile hope to rest,
An unsubstantial prop at best,
And not to know one swallow makes no summer !
Ah ! soon he'll find the brilliant gleam,
Which flash'd across the hemisphere,
Illumining the darkness there,
Was but a single solitary beam,
While all around remain'd in custom'd night.
Still leaden Ignorance reigns serene,
In the false court's delusive height ;
And only one Carlisle is seen,
To illumine the heavy gloom with pure and steady
light.

DESCRIPTION OF A SUMMER'S EVE.

Downs the sultry arc of day
The burning wheels have urged their way,
And eve along the western skies
Spreads her intermingling dyes.
Down the deep, the miry lane,
Creaking comes the empty wain,
And driver on the shaft-horse sits,
Whistling now and then by fits ;
And oft, with his accustom'd call,
Urging on the sluggish Ball,
The barn is still, the master's gone,
And thresher puts his jacket on,
While Dick, upon the ladder tall,
Nails the dead kite to the wall.
Here comes shepherd Jack at last,
He has penn'd the sheep-cote fast ;
For 'twas but two nights before,
A lamb was eaten on the moor :
His empty wallet Rover carries,
Now for Jack, when near home, tarryies.
With lolling tongue he runs to try
If the horse-trough be not dry.

The milk is settled in the pans,
And supper messes in the cans ;
In the hovel carts are wheel'd,
And both the colts are drove a-field ;
The horses are all bedded up,
And the ewe is with the tup,
The snare for Mister Fox is set,
The leaven laid, the thatching wet,
And Bess has sink'd away to talk
With Roger in the holly-walk.

Now, on the settle all, but Bess,
Are set to eat their supper mess ;
And little Tom, and roguish Kate,
Are swinging on the meadow gate.
Now they chat of various things,
Of taxes, ministers, and kings,
Or else tell all the village news,
How madam did the squire refuse ;
How parson on his tithes was bent,
And landlord oft distrain'd for rent.
Thus do they talk, till in the sky
The pale-eyed moon is mounted high,
And from the alehouse drunken Ned
Had reel'd — then hasten all to bed.
The mistress sees that lazy Kate
The happing-coal on kitchen grate
Has laid — while master goes throughout,
Sees shutters fast, the mastiff out,
The candles safe, the hearths all clear,
And nought from thieves or fire to fear :
Then both to bed together creep,
And join the general troop of sleep.

TO CONTEMPLATION.

Come, pensive sage, who lovest to dwell
In some retired Lapponian cell,
Where, far from noise and riot rude,
Resides sequester'd Solitude.

Come, and o'er my longing soul
Throw thy dark and russet stole,
And open to my duteous eyes
The volume of thy mysteries.

I will meet thee on the hill,
Where, with printless footsteps, still
The morning, in her buskin grey,
Springs upon her eastern way ;
While the frolic zephyrs stir,
Playing with the gossamer,
And, on ruder pinions borne,
Shake the dew-drops from the thorn.
There, as o'er the fields we pass,
Brushing with hasty feet the grass,
We will startle from her nest
The lively lark with speckled breast,
And hear, the floating clouds among,
Her gale-transported matin song,
Or on the upland stile embower'd
With fragrant hawthorn snowy flower'd,
Will sauntering sit, and listen still
To the herdsman's oaten quill,
Wafted from the plain below ;
Or the beiter's frequent low ;
Or the milkmaid in the grove,
Singing of one that died for love ;
Or when the noontide heats oppress,
We will seek the dark recess,
Where, in the embower'd translucent stream,
The cattle shun the sultry beam,
And o'er us on the marge reclined,
The drowsy fly her horn shall wind,
While Echo, from her ancient oak,
Shall answer to the woodman's stroke ;
Or the little peasant's song,
Wandering lone the glens among,
His artless lip with berries dyed,
And feet through ragged shoes descried.

But, oh ! when evening's virgin queen
Sits on her fringed throne serene,

And mingling whispers rising near,
Still on the still-reposing ear :
While distant brooks decaying round
Augment the mix'd dissolving sound,
And the zephyr, flitting by,
Whispers mystic harmony,
We will seek the woody lane,
By the hamlet, on the plain,
Where the weary rustic night
Shall whistle his wild melody,
And the croaking wicket oft
Shall echo from the neighbouring croft ;
And as we trace the green path lone,
With moss and rank weeds overgrown,
We will muse on pensive lore
Till the full soul, brimming o'er,
Shall in our up-turn'd eyes appear
Embodied in a quiv'ring tear :
Or else, serenely silent, set
By the brawling rivulet,
Which on its calm unruffled breast
Bears the old mossy arch impress'd,
That clasps its secret stream of glass,
Half hid in shrubs and waving grass, —
The wood-nymph's lone secure retreat,
Unpress'd by lawn or sylvan's feet, —
We'll watch in eve's ethereal braid,
The rich vermilion slowly fade ;
Or catch, faint twinkling from afar,
The first glimpse of the eastern star,
Fair Vesper, mildest lamp of light,
That heralds in imperial night ;
Meanwhile, upon our wandering ear,
Shall rise, though low, yet sweetly clear,
The distant sounds of pastoral lute,
Invoking soft the sober suit
Of dimmest darkness — fitting well
With love, or sorrow's pensive spell,
(So erst, did music's silver tone
Wake slumbering Chaos on his throne.)
And haply thou, with sudden swell,
Shall roar the distant curfew bell,

While in the castle's mouldering tower,
The hooting owl is heard to pour
Her melancholy song, and scare
Dull Silence brooding in the air.
Meanwhile her dusk and slumbering car,
Black-suited Night drives on from far,
And Cynthia, 'merging from her rear,
Arrests the waxing darkness drear,
And summons to her silent call,
Sweeping in their airy pall,
The unshrived ghosts in fairy trance,
To join her moonshine morrice-dance :
While around the mystic ring
The shadowy shapes elastic spring ;
Then with a passing shriek they fly,
Wrapt in mists, along the sky,
And oft are by the shepherd seen,
In his lone night-watch on the green.

Then, hermit, let us turn our feet
To the low abbey's still retreat,
Embower'd in the distant glen,
Far from the haunts of busy men ;
Where, as we sit upon the tomb,
The glow-worm's light may gild the gloom,
And show to Fancy's saddest eye
Where some lost hero's ashes lie.
And oh, as through the mould'ring arch,
With ivy fill'd and weeping larch,
The night-gale whispers sadly clear,
Speaking drear things to Fancy's ear,
We'll hold communion with the shade
Of some deep-wailing ruin'd maid —
Or call the ghost of Spenser down,
To tell of woe and Fortune's frown,
And bid us cast the eye of hope
Beyond this bad world's narrow scope.
Or if these joys, to us denied,
To linger by the forest's side,
Or in the meadow, or the wood,
Or by the lone romantic flood ;

Let us, in the busy town,
When sleep's dull streams the people drown,
Far from drowsy pillows flee,
And turn the church's massy key :
Then, as through the painted glass
The moon's faint beams obscurely pass,
And darkly on the trophied wall
Her faint ambiguous shadows fall ;
Let us, while the faint winds wail
Through the long reluctant aisle,
As we pace with reverence meet,
Count the echoings of our feet,
While from the tombs, with confess'd breath,
Distinct responds the voice of death.
If thou, mild sage, wilt condescend
Thus on my footsteps to attend,
To thee my lonely lamp shall burn
By fallen Genius' smuted urn,
As o'er the scroll of Time I pore,
And sagely spell of ancient lore,
Till I can rightly guess of ail
That Plato could to memory call,
And scan the formless views of things,
Or, with old Egypt's fetter'd kings,
Arrange the mystic trains that shine
In night's high philosophic mine ;
And to thy name shall e'er belong
The honours of undying song.

ODE

TO THE GENIUS OF ROMANCE.

On ! thou, who, in my early youth,
When fancy wore the garb of truth,
Were wont to win my infant feet,
To some retired, deep-fabled seat,
Where, by the brooklet's secret tide,
The midnight ghost was known to glide ;
Or lay me in some lonely glade,
In native Sherwood's forest shade,

Where Robin Hood, the outlaw bold,
 Was wont his sylvan courts to hold ;
 And there, as musing deep I lay,
 Would steal my little soul away,
 And all my pictures represent
 Of siege and solemn tournament ;
 Or bear me to the magic scene,
 Where, clad in greaves and gaberdine,
 The warrior knight of chivalry
 Made many a fierce enchanter flee,
 And bore the high-born dame away,
 Long held the fell magician's prey ;
 Or oft would tell the shudd'ring tale
 Of murders, and of goblins pale
 Haunting the guilty baron's side,
 (Whose floors with secret blood were dyed,)
 Which o'er the vaulted corridor,
 On stormy nights, was heard to roar
 By old domestic, waken'd wide
 By the angry winds that chide ;
 Or else the mystic tale would tell,
 Of Greensleeve, or of Blue-Beard fell.

THE SAVOYARD'S RETURN.

I.

On ! yonder is the well-known spot,
 My dear, my long-lost native home !
 Oh ! welcome is yon little cot,
 Where I shall rest, no more to roam !
 Oh ! I have travell'd far and wide,
 O'er many a distant foreign land ;
 Each place, each province I have tried,
 And sung and danced my saraband.
 But all their charms could not prevail
 To steal my heart from yonder vale.

II.

Of distant climes the false report
 Allured me from my native land ;
 It bade me rove — my sole support
 My cymbals and my saraband.

The woody dell, the hanging rock,
 The chamois skipping o'er the heights,
 The plain adorn'd with many a flock,
 And, oh ! a thousand more delights
 That grace yon dear beloved retreat,
 Have backward won my weary feet.

III.

Now safe return'd, with wandering tired,
 No more my little home I'll leave ;
 And many a tale of what I've seen
 Shall while away the winter's eve.
 Oh ! I have wander'd far and wide,
 O'er many a distant foreign land ;
 Each place, each province I have tried,
 And sung and danced my saraband.
 But all their charms could not prevail
 To steal my heart from yonder vale

 LINES

Written impromptu, on reading the following passage in Mr. Capel Loft's beautiful and interesting Preface to Nathaniel Bloomfield's Poems, just published. — " It has a mixture of the sportive, which deepens the impression of its melancholy close. I could have wished, as I have said in a short note, the conclusion had been otherwise. The sour of life less offend my taste than its sweets delight it."

Go to the raging sea, and say, " Be still ! "
 Bid the wild lawless winds obey thy will ;
 Preach to the storm, and reason with despair,
 But tell not Mis'ry's son *that life is fair*.

'Thou, who in Plenty's lavish lap hast roll'd,
 And every year with new delight hast told,
 Thou, who recumbent on the lacquer'd barge,
 Has dropt down joy's gay stream of pleasant marge,
 Thou may'st extol life's calm untroubled sea,
 The storms of mis'ry never burst on *thee*.

Go to the mat where squalid Want reclines,
 Go to the shade obscure where Merit pines ;

Abide with him whom Penury's charms control,
And bind the rising yearnings of his soul,
Survey his sleepless couch, and, standing there,
Tell the poor pallid wretch *that life is fair !*

Press thou the lonely pillow of his head,
And ask why sleep his languid eyes has fled :
Mark his dew'd temples, and his half-shut eye,
His trembling nostrils, and his deep-drawn sigh,
His muttering mouth contorted with despair,
And ask if Genius could inhabit there.

Oh, yes ! that sunken eye with fire once gleam'd,
And rays of light from its full circlet stream'd ;
But now Neglect has stung him to the core,
And Hope's wild raptures thrill his breast no more ;
Domestic anguish winds his vitals round,
And added Grief compels him to the ground.
Lo ! o'er his manly form, decay'd and wan,
The shades of death with gradual steps steal on ;
And the pale mother, pining to decay,
Weeps for her boy her wretched life away.

Go, child of Fortune ! to his early grave,
Where o'er his head obscure the rank weeds wave ;
Behold the heart-wrung parent lay her head
On the cold turf, and ask to share his bed.
Go, child of Fortune ! take thy lesson there,
And tell us then that life is *wondrous fair !*

Yet, Lofty, in thee, whose hand is still stretch'd forth,
T'encourage genius, and to foster worth ;
On thee, the unhappy's firm, unfailing friend,
'Tis just that every blessing should descend ;
'Tis just that life to thee should only show
Her fairer side but little mix'd with woe.

WRITTEN IN
THE PROSPECT OF DEATH.

SAD solitary *Thought*, who keep'st thy vigils,
Thy solemn vigils, in the sick man's mind ;
Communing lonely with his sinking soul,
And musing on the dubious glooms that lie
In dim obscurity before him, — thee,
Wrapt in thy dark magnificence, I call
At this still midnight hour, this awful season,
When on my bed, in wakeful restlessness,
I turn me wearisome ; while all around,
All, all, save me, sink in forgetfulness ;
I only wake to watch the sickly taper
Which lights me to my tomb. — Yes, 'tis the hand
Of Death I feel press heavy on my vitals,
Slow sapping the warm current of existence
My moments now are few — the sand of life
Ebb's fastly to its finish. — Yet a little,
And the last fleeting particle will fall,
Silent, unseen, unnoticed, unlamented.
Come then, sad *Thought*, and let us meditate
While meditate we may. — We have now
But a small portion of what men call time
To hold communion ; for even now the knife,
The separating knife, I feel divide
The tender bond that binds my soul to earth.
Yes, I must die — I feel that I must die ;
And though to me has life been dark and dreary,
Though Hope for me has smiled but to deceive,
And Disappointment still pursued her blandish-
ments,
Yet do I feel my soul recoil within me
As I contemplate the dim gulf of death,
The shuddering void, the awful blank — futurity.
Aye, I have plann'd full many a sanguine scheme
Of earthly happiness — romantic schemes,
And fraught with loveliness ; and it is hard
To feel the hand of Death arrest one's steps,
Throw a chill blight o'er all one's budding hopes,

And hurl one's soul untimely to the shades,
Lost in the gaping gulf of blank oblivion.
Fifty years hence, and who will hear of Henry?
Oh! none; — another busy brood of beings
Will shoot up in the interim, and none
Will hold him in remembrance. I shall sink,
As sinks a stranger in the crowded streets
Of busy London: — Some short bustle's caused,
A few enquiries, and the crowds close in,
And all's forgotten. — On my grassy grave
The men of future times will careless tread,
And read my name upon the sculptured stone;
Nor will the sound, familiar to their ears,
Recall my vanish'd memory. — I did hope
For better things! — I hoped I should not leave
The earth without a vestige; — Fate decrees
It shall be otherwise, and I submit.
Henceforth, O world, no more of thy desires!
No more of Hope! the wanton vagrant Hope!
I abjure all. — Now other cares engross me,
And my tired soul, with emulative haste,
Looks to its God, and prunes its wings for Heaven.

PASTORAL SONG.

Come, Anna! come; the morning dawns,
Faint streaks of radiance tinge the skies:
Come, let us seek the dewy lawns,
And watch the early lark arise;
While nature, clad in vesture gay,
Hails the loved return of day.

Our flocks, that nip the scanty blade
Upon the moor, shall seek the vale;
And then, secure beneath the shade
We'll listen to the throstle's tale;
And watch the silver clouds above,
As o'er the azure vault they rove.

Come, Anna! come, and bring thy lute,
That with its tones, so softly sweet,
In cadence with my mellow flute,
We may beguile the noontide heat;
While near the mellow bee shall join
To raise a harmony divine.

And then at eve, when silence reigns,
Except when heard the beetle's hum,
We'll leave the sober-tinted plains,
To these sweet heights again we'll come;
And thou to thy soft lute shalt play
A solemn vesper to departing day.

VERSES.

When pride and envy, and the scorn
Of wealth, my heart with gall imbued,
I thought how pleasant were the morn
Of silence, in the solitude;
To hear the forest bee on wing,
Or by the stream, or woodland spring,
To lie and muse alone — alone,
While the tinkling waters moan,
Or such wild sounds arise, as say,
Man and noise are far away.

Now, surely, thought I, there's enough
To fill life's dusty way;
And who will miss a poet's feet,
Or wonder where he stray:
So to the woods and waste I'll go,
And I will build an osier bower;
And sweetly there to me shall flow
The meditative hour.

And when the Autumn's with'ring hand
Shall strew with leaves the sylvan land,
I'll to the forest caverns hie:

And in the dark and stormy nights
 I'll listen to the shrieking sprites,
 Who in the wintry wolds and floods
 Keep jubilee, and shred the woods ;
 Or, as it drifted soft and slow,
 Hurl in ten thousand shapes the snow.

* * * *

EPIGRAM

ON ROBERT BLOOMFIELD.

BLOOMFIELD, thy happy omen'd name
 Ensures continuance to thy fame ;
 Both sense and truth this verdict give,
 While *fields* shall *bloom*, thy name shall live !

ODE TO MIDNIGHT.

SEASON of general rest, whose solemn still
 Strikes to the trembling heart a fearful chill,
 But speaks to philosophic souls delight,
 Thee do I hail, as at my casement high,
 My candle waning melancholy by,
 I sit and taste the holy calm of night.

Yon pensive orb, that through the ether sails,
 And gilds the misty shadows of the vales,
 Hanging in thy dull rear her vestal flame,
 To her, while all around in sleep recline,
 Wakeful I raise my orisons divine,
 And sing the gentle honours of her name :

While Fancy lone o'er me her votary bends,
 To lift my soul her fairy visions sends,
 And pours upon my ear her thrilling song,

And Superstition's gentle terrors come,
 See, see yon dim ghost gliding through the gloom!
 See round yon church-yard elm what spectres
 throng!

Meanwhile I tune, to some romantic lay,
 My flageolet — and, as I pensive play,
 The sweet notes echo o'er the mountain scene:
 The traveller late journeying o'er the moors,
 Hears them aghast, — (while still the dull owl pours
 Her hollow screams each dreary pause between,)

Till in the lonely tower he spies the light
 Now faintly flashing on the glooms of night,
 Where I, poor musc, my lone vigils keep,
 And 'mid the dreary solitude serene,
 Cast a much meaning glance upon the scene,
 And raise my mournful eye to Heaven, and weep.

ODE TO THOUGHT.

WRITTEN AT MIDNIGHT.

I.

HENCE away, vindictive Thought!
 Thy pictures are of pain;
 The visions through thy dark eye caught,
 They with no gentle charms are fraught,
 So pr'ythee back again.
 I would not weep,
 I wish to sleep,
 Then why, thou busy foe, with me thy vigils keep?

II.

Why dost o'er bed and couch recline?
 Is this thy new delight?
 Pale visitant, it is not thine
 To keep thy sentry through the mine,
 The dark vault of the night:
 'Tis thine to die,
 While o'er the eye
 The dews of slumber press, and waking sorrows fly.

III.

Go thou, and bide with him who guides
 His bark through lonely seas;
 And as reclining on his helm,
 Sadly he marks the starry realm,
 To him thou may'st bring ease;
 But thou to me
 Art misery,
 So pr'ythee, pr'ythee, plume thy wings, and from
 my pillow flee.

IV.

And, Memory, pray, what art thou ?
 Art thou of pleasure born ?
 Does bliss untainted from thee flow ?
 The rose that gems thy pensive brow,
 Is it without a thorn ?
 With all thy smiles,
 And witching wiles,
 Yet not unfrequent bitterness thy mournful sway
 defiles.

V.

The drowsy night-watch has forgot
 To call the solemn hour ;
 Lull'd by the winds, he slumbers deep,
 While I in vain, capricious Sleep,
 Invoke thy tardy power ;
 And restless lie,
 With unclosed eye,
 And count the tedious hours as slow they minute
 by.

GENIUS.

AN ODE.

• I. 1,

MANY there be, who, through the vale of life,
 With velvet pace, unnoticed, softly go,
 While jarring Discord's inharmonious strife
 Awakes them not to woe.

By them unheeded, carking Care,
 Green-eyed Grief, and dull Despair ;
 Smoothly they pursue their way,
 With even tenor and with equal breath,
 Alike through cloudy and through sunny day,
 Then sink in peace to death.

II. 1.

But, ah ! a few there be whom griefs devour,
 And weeping Woe, and Disappointment keen,
 Repining Penury, and Sorrow sour,
 And self-consuming Spleen, —
 And these are Genius' favourites : these
 Know the thought-throned mind to please,
 And from her fleshy seat to draw
 To realms where Fancy's golden orbits roll,
 Disdaining all but 'wildering Rapture's law,
 The captivated soul.

III. 1.

Genius, from thy starry throne,
 High above the burning zone,
 In radiant robe of light array'd,
 Oh ! hear the plaint by thy sad favourite made,
 His melancholy moan.
 He tells of scorn, he tells of broken vows,
 Of sleepless nights, of anguish-ridden days,
 Pangs that his sensibility uprouse
 To curse his being and his thirst for praise.
 Thou gavest to him with treble force to feel
 The sting of keen neglect, the rich man's scorn ;
 And what o'er all does in his soul preside
 Predominant, and tempers him to steel,
 His high indignant pride.

I. 2.

Lament not ye, who humbly steal through life,
 That Genius visits not your lowly shed ;
 For, ah ! what woes and sorrows ever rife
 Distract his hapless head !

For him awaits no balmy sleep,
 He wakes all night, and wakes to weep ;
 Or by his lonely lamp he sits
 At solemn midnight, when the peasant sleeps,
 In feverish study, and in moody fits
 His mournful vigils keeps.

II. 2.

And, oh ! for what consumes his watchful oil ?
 For what does thus he waste life's fleeting
 breath ?
 'Tis for neglect and penury he doth toil,
 'Tis for untimely death.
 Lo ! where dejected pale he lies,
 Despair depicted in his eyes,
 He feels the vital flame decrease,
 He sees the grave wide-yawning for its prey,
 Without a friend to soothe his soul to peace,
 And cheer the expiring ray.

III. 2.

By Sulmo's bard of mournful fame,
 By gentle Otway's magic name,
 By him, the youth, who smiled at death,
 And rashly dared to stop his vital breath,
 Will I thy pangs proclaim ;
 For still to misery closely thou'rt allied,
 Though gaudy pageants glitter by thy side,
 And far-resounding Fame.
 What though to thee the dazzled millions bow,
 And to thy posthumous merit bend them low ;
 Though unto thee the monarch looks with awe,
 And thou at thy flash'd ear dost nations draw,
 Yet, ah ! unseen, behind thee fly
 Corroding Anguish, soul-subduing Pain,
 And Discontent, that clouds the fairest sky :
 A melancholy train.
 Yes, Genius ! thee a thousand cares await,
 Mocking thy derided state :
 Thee chill Adversity will still attend,
 Before whose face flies fast the summer's friend,
 And leaves thee all forlorn ;

While leaden Ignorance rears her head and laughs,
And fat Stupidity shakes his jolly sides,
And while the cup of Affluence he quaffs
With bee-eyed Wisdom, Genius derides,
Who toils, and every hardship doth outbrave,
To gain the meed of praise, when he is mouldering
in his grave.

FRAGMENT OF AN ODE TO THE MOON.

I.

MILD orb, who floatest through the realm of night,
A pathless wanderer o'er a lonely wild,
Welcome to me thy soft and pensive light,
Which oft in childhood my lone thoughts be-
guled.
Now doubly dear, as o'er my silent seat,
Nocturnal Study's still retreat,
It casts a mournful melancholy gleam,
And through my lofty casement weaves,
Dim through the vine's encircling leaves,
An intermingled beam.

II.

These feverish dews that on my temples hang,
This quivering lip, these eyes of dying flame,
These, the dread signs of many a secret pang —
These are the meed of him who pants for fame!
Pale Moon, from thoughts like these divert my soul;
Lowly I kneel before thy shrine on high;
My lamp expires; — beneath thy mild control,
These restless dreams are ever wont to fly.
Come, kindred mourner, in my breast
Soothe these discordant tones to rest,
And breathe the soul of peace:
Mild visitor, I feel thee here;
It is not pain that brings this tear,
For thou hast bid it cease.

Oh! many a year has pass'd away
 Since I, beneath thy fairy ray,
 Attuned my infant reed ;
 When wilt thou, Time, those days restore,
 Those happy moments now no more —

* * * *

When on the lake's damp marge I lay,
 And mark'd the northern meteor's dance,
 Bland Hope and Fancy, ye were there
 To inspire my trance.

Twin sisters, faintly now ye deign
 Your magic sweets on me to shed,
 In vain your powers are now essay'd
 To chase superior pain.

And art thou fled, thou welcome orb ?

So swiftly pleasure flies ;
 So to mankind, in darkness lost,
 The beam of ardour dies.

Wan Moon, thy nightly task is done,
 And now, encurtain'd in the main,
 Thou sinkest into rest ;

But I, in vain, on thorny bed,
 Shall woo the god of soft repose —

* * * *

FRAGMENT.

LoUD rage the winds without. — The wintry cloud
 O'er the cold north star casts her flitting shroud ;
 And Silence, pausing in some snow-clad dale,
 Starts as she hears, by fits, the shrieking gale ;
 Where now, shut out from every still retreat,
 Her pine-clad summit, and her woodland seat,
 Shall Meditation, in her saddest mood,
 Retire, o'er all her pensive stores to brood ?
 Shivering and blue, the peasant eyes askance
 The drifted fleeces that around him dance,

And hurries on his half-averted form,
 Stemming the fury of the sidelong storm.
 Him soon shall greet his snow-topt [cot of thatch,]
 Soon shall his 'numbed hand tremble on the latch ;
 Soon from his chimney's nook the cheerful flame
 Diffuse a genial warmth throughout his frame ;
 Round the light fire, while roars the north wind
 loud,

What merry groups of vacant faces crowd ;
 These hail his coming — these his meal prepare,
 And boast in all that cot no lurking care.

What, though the social circle be denied,
 Even Sadness brightens at her own fire-side,
 Loves, with fix'd eye, to watch the fluttering blaze,
 While musing Memory dwells on former days ;
 Or Hope, blest spirit ! smiles — and still forgiven,
 Forgets the passport, while she points to Heaven.
 Then heap the fire, shut out the biting air,
 And from its station wheel the easy chair ;
 Thus fenced and warm, in silent sit 'tis sweet
 To hear without the bitter tempest beat,
 All, all alone — to sit, and muse, and sigh,
 The pensive tenant of obscurity.

* * * * *

FRAGMENT.

On ! thou most fatal of Pandora's train,
 Consumption ! silent cheater of the eye ;
 Thou comest not robed in agonizing pain,
 Nor mark'st at thy course with Death's delusive dye,
 But silent and unnoticed thou dost lie ;
 O'er life's soft springs thy venom dost diffuse,
 And, while thou givest new lustre to the eye,
 While o'er the cheek are spread health's ruddy hues,
 Even then life's little rest thy cruel power subdues.

Oft I've beheld thee, in the glow of youth,
 Hid 'neath the blushing roses which there bloom'd,
 And dropt a tear ; for then thy cankering tooth
 I knew would never stay, till, all consumed,
 In the cold vault of death he were entomb'd.

But, oh ! what sorrow did I feel, as, swift,
 Insidious ravager, I saw thee fly
 Through fair Lucina's breast of whitest snow,
 Preparing swift her passage to the sky.
 Though still intelligence beam'd in the glance,
 The liquid lustre of her fine blue eye ;
 Yet soon did languid listlessness advance,
 And soon she calmly sunk in death's repugnant
 trance.

Even when her end was swiftly drawing near,
 And dissolution hover'd o'er her head :
 Even then *so beautiful* did her form appear,
 That none who saw her but admiring said,
 Sure so much beauty never could be dead.
 Yet the dark lash of her expressive eye,
 Bent lowly down upon the languid —

* * * * *

I HAVE a wish, and near my heart
 That wish lies buried :
 To keep it there's a foolish part,
 For, oh ! it must not be,
 It must not, must not be.

Why, my fond heart, why beat'st thou so ?
 'The dream is fair to see —
 But, bid the lovely flatterer go ;
 It must not, must not be,
 Oh, no ! it must not be.

'Tis well this tear in secret falls,
 This weakness suits not me ;
 I know where sterner duty calls —
 It must not, cannot be,
 Oh, no ! it cannot be.

Once more his beagles wake the slumb'ring morn,
 And the high woodland echoes to his horn,
 As on the mountain cliff the hunter band
 Chase the fleet chamois o'er the unknown land,
 Or sadly silent, from some jutting steep,
 He throws his line into the gulphy deep.
 Where in the wilderness, grotesque and drear,
 The loud Arve stuns the eye's reposing ear ;
 Or, if his lost domestic joys arise,
 Once more the prattler its endearments tries —
 It lisps " My father ! " and as newly prest
 Its close embraces meet his lonely breast.
 His long-lost partner, too, at length restored,
 Leans on his arm, and decks the social board.
 Yet still, mysterious on his fever'd brain
 The deep impressions of his woes remain :
 He thinks she weeps. — " And why, my love, so
 pale ?
 " What hidden grief could o'er thy peace prevail ?
 " Or is it fancy ? — yet thou dost but * * ;"
 And then he weeps — and weeps he knows not why.

DREAR winter ! who dost knock
 So loud and angry on my cottage-roof
 In the loud night-storm wrapt, while drifting snows
 The cheerless waste invest, and cold, and wide,
 Seen by the flitting star, the landscape gleams ;
 With no unholy awe I hear thy voice,
 As by my dying embers, safely housed,
 I, in deep silence, muse. Though I am lone,

And my low chimney owns no cheering voice
Of friendly converse ; yet not comfortless
Is my long evening, nor devoid of thoughts
To cheat the silent hours upon their way.
There are, who in this dark and fearful night,
Houseless, and cold of heart, are forced to bide
These beating snows, and keen relentless winds —
Wayfaring men, or wanderers whom no home
Awaits, nor rest from travel, save the inn
Where all the journeyers of mortal life
Lie down at last to sleep. Yet some there be
Who merit not to suffer. — Infancy,
And sinew-shrinking age are not exempt
From penury's severest, deadliest gripe.
Oh, it doth chill the eddying heart's blood to see
The guileless cheek of infancy turn'd blue
With the keen cold. — Lo, where the baby hangs
On his wan parent's hand ; his shiv'ring skin
Half bare, and opening to the biting gale.
Poor shiv'rer, to his mother he upturns
A meaning look in silence ! then he casts
Askance, upon the howling waste before,
A mournful glance upon the forward way —
But all lies dreary, and cold as hope
In his forsaken breast.

BENOLD the shepherd boy, who homeward tends,
Finish'd his daily labour. — O'er the path,
Deep overhung with herbage, does he stroll
With pace irregular : by fits he runs,
Then sudden stops with vacant countenance,
And picks the pungent herb, or on the stile
Listlessly sits and twines the reedy whip,
And carols blithe his short and simple song.
Thrice happy idler ! — thou hast never known
Refinement's piercing pang ; thy joys are small,
Yet are they unalloy'd with bitter thought
And after misery. — As I behold
Thy placid, artless countenance, I feel

Strange envy of thy state, and fain would change
These short, uncommon hours of keener bliss
For thy long day of equal happiness.

Heaven grant no after trials may imprint
Trouble's deep wrinkle on thine open face,
And cloud thy generous features. — May'st thou
tread

In the calm paths through which thy fathers trod
To their late graves of honourable rest :

So will thy lot be happy. So the hour
Of death come clad in loveliness and joy ;
And as thou lay'st down thy blanched head
Beneath the narrow mound, Affection's hand
Will bend the osier o'er thy peaceful grave,
And bid the lily blossom on thy turf.

But, oh ! may Heaven avert from thee the curse
Of mad fanaticism ! away ! away —

Let not the restless monster dare pollute
The calm abodes of rural innocence !

Oh ! if the wide contagion reach thy breast,
Unhappy peasant, peace will vanish thence,
And raging turbulence will rack thy heart
With feverish dismay : then discontent
Will prey upon thy vitals ; then will doubt
And sad uncertainty, in fierce array,
With superstition's monstrous train, surround
Thy dreadful death-bed ; and no soothing hand
Will smooth the painful pillow, for the bonds
Of tender amity are all consumed
By the prevailing fire. They all are lost
In one ungovernable, selfish flame.

Where has this pestilence arisen ? — where
The Hydra multitude of sister ills,
Of infidelity, and open sin,
Of disaffection, and repining gall ?

Oh, ye revered, venerable band,
Who wear religion's ephod, unto ye
Belongs with wakeful vigilance to check
The growing evil. In the vicious town,
Fearless and fix'd, the monster stands secure ;
But guard the rural shade ! let honest peace
Yet hold her ancient seats, and still preserve
The village groups in their primeval bliss.

Such was, Placidio, thy divine employ,
Ere thou wert borne to some sublimer sphere
By death's mild angel.

* * * *

WHERE yonder woods in gloomy pomp arise,
Embower'd, remote, a lowly cottage lies ;
Before the door a garden spreads, where blows,
Now wild, once cultivate, the brier rose ;
Though choked with weeds, the lily there will peer,
And early primrose hail the nascent year ;
There to the walls did jess'mine wreaths attach,
And many a sparrow twitter'd in the thatch,
While in the woods that wave their heads on high
The stock-dove warbled murmuring harmony.

There, buried in retirement, dwelt a sage,
Whose reverent locks bespoke him far in age ;
Silent he was, and solemn was his mien,
And rarely on his cheek a smile was seen.
The village gossips had full many a tale
About the aged " hermit of the dale."
Some call'd him wizard, some a holy seer,
Though all beheld him with an equal fear,
And many a stout heart had he put to flight,
Met in the gloomy wood-walks late at night.

Yet well I ween the sire was good of heart,
Nor would to ought one heedless pang impart ;
His soul was gentle, but he'd known of woe —
Had known the world, nor longer wish'd to know.
Here, far retired from all its busy ways,
He hoped to spend the remnant of his days ;
And here, in peace, he till'd his little ground,
And saw, unheeded, years revolving round.
Fair was his daughter as the blush of day,
In her alone his hopes and wishes lay ;
His only care about her future life,
When death should call him from the haunts of strife.

Sweet was her temper, mild as summer skies
When o'er their azure no thin vapour flies ;
And, but to see her aged father sad,
No fear, no care, the gentle Fanny had.

Still at her wheel the live-long day she sung,
Till with the sound the lonesome woodlands rung,
And 'till usurp'd his long unquestion'd sway,
The solitary battern wing'd its way,
Indignant rose, on dismal pinions borne,
To find, untrod by man, some waste forlorn ;
Where, unmolested, he might hourly wail,
And with his screams still load the heavy gale.

Once as I stray'd at eve the woods among,
To pluck wild strawberries, — I heard her song ;
And heard, enchanted, — oh, it was so soft,
So sweet, I thought the cherubim aloft
Were quiring to the spheres. Now the full note
Did on the downy wings of silence float
Full on the ravish'd sense, then died away,
Distantly on the ear, in sweet decay.

Then first I knew the cot ; the simple pair ;
Though soon become a welcome inmate there :
At eve, I still would fly to hear the lay
Which Fanny to her lute was wont to play ;
Or with the Sire would sit and talk of war —
For wars he'd seen, and bore full many a scar ;
And oft the plan of gallant siege he drew,
And loved to teach me all the arts he knew.

* * * *

With slow step, along the desert sand,
Where o'er the parching plains broods red dismay,
The Arab chief leads on his ruthless band,
And, lo ! a speck of dust is seen to play
On the remotest confines of the day.

Arouse! arouse! fierce does the chieftain cry;
 Death calls! the caravan is on its way!
 The warrior shouts. The Siroc hurries by,
 Hush'd is his stormy voice, and quench'd his murderous eye.

These lines might appear, by the metre, to have been intended for a stanza of the "*Christiad*," perhaps to have been introduced as a simile; but though the conception is striking, the composition is far more incorrect than *that* of that fine fragment.

TO A FRIEND.

To *you* these pensive lines I fondly send,
 Far distant now, my brother, and my friend.
 If, 'mid the novel sceppe, thou yet art free
 To give one silent, museful hour to me,
 Turn from the world, and fancy, whisp'ring near,
 Thou hear'st the voice thou once did'st love to hear.
 Can time and space, how'er with anguish fraught,
 Damp the warm heart, or chain the soaring thought?
 Or, when most dread, the nascent joy they blast,
 Chase from the mind the image of the past?
 Ah, no! when death has robb'd her hoard of bliss,
 What stays to soothe the widow's hours, but this? —
 This cheers her dreams, and cheats the ling'ring time
 Till she shall reach * * * * *

Oh! had the soul's deep silence power to speak;
 Could the warm thought the bars of distance break!
 Could the lone music to thine ear convey
 Each rising sigh, and all the heart can say!
 Dear to my breast, beyond conception dear,
 Would the long solitude of night appear:
 Sweet would it be to hear the winds complain —
 To mark the heavings of the moonlight main;

Sweet to behold the silent hamlet lie,
 With * * * * *
 But sweeter far * * * *
 Rose not unshar'd, nor fell unmarked by thee.

THE harp is still ! Weak though the spirit were
 That whisper'd in its rising harmonies ;
 Yet Mem'ry, with her sister, fond Regret,
 Loves to recall the wild and wandering airs
 That cheer'd the long-fled hours, when o'er the
 strings
 That spirit hover'd. Weak and though it were
 To pour the torrent of impetuous song,
 It was not weak to touch the sacred chords
 Of pity, or to summon, with dark spell
 Of witching rhymes, the spirits of the deep
 Form'd to do Fancy's bidding ; and to fetch
 Her perfumes from the morning star, or dye
 Her volant robes with the bright rainbow's hues

* * * *

* * * *

Oh should the day be overcast,
 We'll linger, till the shower be past,
 Where the hawthorn's branches spread
 A fragrant covert o'er the head,
 And list the rain-drops beat the leaves,
 Or smoke upon the cottage eaves ;
 Or silent dimpling on the stream,
 Convert to lead its silver gleam ;
 And we will muse on human life,
 And think, from all the storms of strife,
 How sweet to find a snug retreat,
 Where we may hear the tempests beat
 Secure and fearless, — and provide
 Repose for life's calm eventide.

MILD vesper, favourite of the Paphian Queen,
 Whose lucid lamp on evening's twilight zone
 Sheds a soft lustre o'er the gloom serene,
 Only by Cynthia's silver beam outshone :
 Thee I invoke to point my lonely way
 O'er these wild wastes, to where my lover bides ;
 For thou alone canst lend thy friendly ray,
 Now the bright moon toward the ocean glides.
 No midnight murderer asks thy guilty aid,
 No nightly robber * * * * *
 I am alone, by silly love betray'd.
 To woo the star of Venus * * *

* * * * *

In every clime, from Lapland to Japan,
 This truth's confest, — That man's worst foe is man.
 The rav'ning tribes, that crowd the sultry zone,
 Prey on all kinds and colours but their own ;
 Lion with lion herds, and pard with pard,
 Instinct's first law their covenant and guard.
 But man alone, the lord of ev'ry clime,
 Whose post is godlike, and whose powers sublime, —
Man, at whose birth the Almighty hand stood still,
 Pleased with the last great effort of his will —
 Man, man alone, no tenant of the wood,
 Preys on his kind, and laps his brother's blood ;
 His fellow leads where hidden pit-falls lie,
 And drinks with ecstacy his dying sigh.

ODE TO LIBERTY.

HENCE to thy darkest shades, dire Slavery, hence !
 Thine icy touch can freeze,
 Swift as the Polar breeze,
 The proud defying port of human sense.
 Hence to thine Indian cave,
 To where the tall canes whisper o'er thy rest,
 Like the murmuring wave
 Swept by the dank wing of the rapid west ; .

And at the night's still noon,
The lash'd Angolan, in his grated cell,
Mix'd with the tiger's yell,
Howls to the dull ear of the silent moon.

But come, thou goddess blithe and free,
Thou mountain-maid, sweet Liberty !
With buskin'd knee, and bosom bare,
Thy tresses floating in the air ;
Come, — and treading on thy feet,
Independence let me meet,
Thy giant mate, whose awful form
Has often braved the bellowing storm,
And heard its angry spirit shriek,
Rear'd on some promontory's beak,
Seen by the lonely fisher far,
By the glimpse of flitting star.

His awful bulk, in dusky shroud,
Commixing with the patchy cloud ;
While at his feet the lightnings play,
And the deep thunders die away.
Goddess, come ; and let us sail
On the fresh reviving gale,
O'er dewy lawns and forests lone,
Till lighting on some mountain stone,
That scales the circumambient sky,
We see a thousand nations lie,
From Zembla's snows to Afric's heat,
Prostrate beneath our frolic feet.

From Italy's luxurious plains,
Where everlasting summer reigns,
Why, goddess, dost thou turn away ?
Didst thou never sojourn there ?
Oh, yes, thou didst — but fallen is Rome ;
The pilgrim weeps her silent doom,
As at midnight, murmuring low
Along the mouldering portico,
He hears the desolate wind career,
While the rank ivy whispers near.

Ill-fated Gaul ! ambitious grasp
 Bids thee again in slavery gasp :
 Again the dungeon walls resound
 The hopeless shriek, the groan profound.
 But, lo ! in yonder happy skies
 Helvetia's airy mountains rise ;
 And, oh ! on her tall cliffs reclined,
 Gay Fancy, whispering to the mind,
 As the wild herdsman's call is heard,
 Tells me that she, o'er all preferr'd,
 In every clime, in every zone,
 Is Liberty's divinest throne.
 Yet whence that sigh ? O goddess, say,
 Has the tyrant's thirsty sway
 Dared profane the sacred seat,
 Thy long high-favour'd, best retreat ?
 It has ! it has ! away, away,
 To where the green isles woo the day,
 Where thou art still supreme, and where
 Thy pæans fill the floating air.

* * * * *

Who is it leads the planets on their dance —
 The mighty sisterhood ? Who is it strikes
 The harp of universal harmony ?

Hark ! 'tis the voice of planets on their dance,
 Led by the arch-contriver. Beautiful
 The harmony of order ! How they sing :
 The regulated orbs, upon their path
 Through the wide trackless ether, sing as though
 A syren sat upon each glitt'ring gem,
 And made fair music — such as mortal hand
 Ne'er raised on the responding chords ; more like
 The mystic melody that oft the bard
 Hears in the strings of the suspended harp,
 Touch'd by some unknown beings that reside
 In evening breezes, or, at dead of night,
 Wake in the long, shrill pauses of the wind.

This is the music which, in ages hush'd,
 Ere the Assyrian quaff'd his cups of blood,
 Kept the lone Chald awake, when through the night
 He watch'd his herds. The solitary man,
 By frequent meditation, learnt to spell
 Yon sacred volume of high mystery.
 He could arrange the wandering passengers,
 From the pale star, first on the silent brow
 Of the meek-tress'd Eve, to him who shines
 Son of the morning, orient Lucifer :
 Sweet were to him, in that unletter'd age,
 The openings of wonder. — He could gaze
 Till his whole soul was fill'd with mystery,
 And every night-wind was a spirit's voice,
 And every far-off mist a spirit's form :
 So with fables and wild romantic dreams
 He mix'd his truth, and couch'd in symbols dark.
 Hence blind idolatry arose, and men
 Knelt to the sun, or at the dead of night
 Pour'd their orisons to the cloud-wrapt moon.
 Hence, also, after ages into stars
 Transform'd their heroes ; and the warlike chief,
 With fond eye fix'd on some resplendent gem,
 Held converse with the spirits of his sires : —
 With other eyes than these did Plato view
 The heavens, and, fill'd with reasonings sublime,
 Half pierced, at intervals, the mystery,
 Which with the Gospel vanish'd, and made way
 For noon-day brightness. * * *

* * * * *

How beautiful upon the element

The Egyptian moonlight sleeps ;

The Arab on the bank hath pitch'd his tent ;

The light wave dances, sparkling, o'er the deeps ;

The tall reeds whisper in the gale,

And o'er the distant tide moves slow the silent sail.

Thou mighty Nile ! and thou receding main,
 How peacefully ye rest upon your shores,
 Tainted no more, as when from Cairo's towers
 Roll'd the swoln corse, by plague ! the monster !
 slain.

Far as the eye can see around,
 Upon the solitude of waters wide,
 There is no sight save of the restless tide —
 Save of the winds and waves, there is no sound.

Egypt sleeps, her sons in silence sleep !
 — 'fatal' land, upon thy rest they come —
 Th' invader, and his host. Behold the deep
 Bears on her farthest verge a dusky gloom —
 And now they rise, the masted forests rise,
 And gallants, through the foam, their way they
 make.

Stern Genius of the Memphian shores, awake —
 The foeman in thy inmost harbour lies,
 And ruin o'er thy land with brooding pennon flies.

* * * * *

Ghosts of the dead, in grim array,
 Surround the tyrant's nightly bed !
 And in the still, distinctly say,
 I by thy treach'ry bled.
 And I, and I, ten thousands cry ;
 From Jaffa's plains, from Egypt's sands,
 They come, they raise the chorus high,
 And whirl around in shrieking bands.
 Loud, and more loud the clamours rise,
 " Lo ! there the traitor ! murderer ! lies."
 He murder'd me, he murder'd thee ;
 And now his bed his rack shall be.
 As when a thousand torrents roar,
 Around his head their yells they pour :
 The sweat-drops start, convulsion's hand
 Binds every nerve in iron band.

'Tis done ! they fly, the clamours die,
 The moon is up, the night is calm,
 Man's busy broods in slumbers lie ;
 But horrors still the tyrant's soul alarm,
 And ever and anon, serenely clear,
 Have mercy, mercy, Heaven ! strikes on dull mid-
 night's ear.

ODE

ON THE DEATH OF THE DUKE D'ENGHEN.

WHAT means yon trampling ? what that light
 That glimmers in the inmost wood ;
 As though beneath the felon night
 It mark'd some deed of blood ?
 Behold yon figures dim descried
 In dark array, they speechless glide.
 The forest moans ; the raven's scream
 Swells slowly o'er the moated stream,
 As from the castle's topmost tower,
 It chants its boding song alone :
 A song, that at this awful hour
 Bears dismal tidings in its funeral tone ;
 Tidings, that in some grey domestic's ear
 Will on his wakeful bed strike deep mysterious fear.

And, hark, that loud report ! 'tis done ;
 There's murder couch'd in yonder gloom ;
 'Tis done, 'tis done ! the prize is won,
 Another rival meets his doom.
 The tyrant smiles, — with fell delight
 He dwells upon the * * * * *
 The tyrant smiles ; from terror freed,
 Exulting in the foul misdeed,
 And sternly in his secret breast
 Marks out the victims next to fall.
 His purpose fix'd ; their moments fly no more,
 He points, — the poniard knows its own ;
 Unseen it strikes, — unseen they die,

Foul midnight only hears, and shudders at the
groan.

But justice yet shall lift her arm on high,
And Bourbon's blood no more ask vengeance from
the sky.

SONNETS.

TO CAPEL LOFFT, ESQ.

LOFFT, unto thee one tributary song
The simple Muse, admiring, fain would bring ;
She longs to lisp thee to the listening throng,
And with thy name to bid the woodlands ring.
Fain would she blazon all thy virtues forth,
Thy warm philanthropy, thy justice mild ;
Would say how thou didst foster kindred worth,
And to thy bosom snatch'd Misfortune's child :
Firm she would paint thee, with becoming zeal,
Upright, and learned, as the Pylian sire ;
Would say how sweetly thou could'st sweep the
lyre,
And show thy labours for the public weal :
Ten thousand virtues tell with joys supreme ;
But, ah ! she shrinks abash'd before the arduous
theme.

TO THE MOON.

WRITTEN IN NOVEMBER.

SUBLIME, emerging from the misty verge
Of the horizon dim, thee, Moon, I hail,
As, sweeping o'er the leafless grove, the gale
Seems to repeat the year's funereal dirge.

Now Autumn sickens on the languid sight,
And leaves bestrew the wanderer's lonely way,
Now unto thee, pale arbitress of night,
With double joy my homage do I pay.
When clouds disguise the glories of the day
And stern November sheds her boisterous blight,
How doubly sweet to mark the moony ray,
Shoot through the mist from the ethereal height,
And, *still unchanged*, back to the memory bring
The smiles Favonian of life's earliest spring !

WRITTEN AT THE GRAVE OF A FRIEND.

Fast from the West the fading day-streaks fly,
And ebon Night assumes her solemn sway,
Yet here alone, unheeding time, I lie,
And o'er my friend still pour the plaintive lay.
Oh ! 'tis not long since, George, with thee I woo'd
The maid of musings by yon mooning wave,
And hail'd the moon's mild beam, which now re-
new'd,
Seems sweetly sleeping on thy silent grave !
The busy world pursues its boisterous way,
The noise of revelry still echoes round,
Yet I am sad while all besides is gay ;
Yet still I weep o'er thy deserted mound.
Oh ! that, like thee, I might bid sorrow cease,
And 'neath the green-sward sleep the sleep of peace.

SWEET to the gay of heart is Summer's smile,
Sweet the wild music of the laughing Spring :
But, ah ! my soul far other scenes beguile,
Where gloomy storms their sullen shadows fling.
Is it for me to strike the Idalian string —
Raise the soft music of the warbling wire,

While in my ears the howls of fairies ring,
And melancholy wastes the vital fire?
Away with thoughts like these— To some lone cave
Where howls the shrill blast, and where sweeps
the wave,
Direct my steps; there, in the lonely drear,
I'll sit remote from worldly noise, and muse,
Till through my soul shall Peace her balm infuse,
And whisper sounds of comfort in mine ear.

Poor little one ! most bitterly did pain,
And life's worst ills, assail thine early age !
And quickly tired with this rough pilgrimage,
Thy wearied spirit did its heaven regain.
Moaning and sickly, on the lap of life
Thou laid'st thine aching head, and thou didst sigh
A little while, ere to its kindred sky
Thy soul return'd, to taste no more of strife !
Thy lot was happy, little sojourner !
Thou had'st no mother to direct thy ways ;
And fortune frown'd most darkly on thy days,
Short as they were. Now, far from the low stir
Of this dim spot, in heaven thou dost repose,
And look'st, and smilest on this world's transient
woes.

TO DECEMBER.

DARK visaged visitor, who comest here
Clad in thy mournful tunic, to repeat
(While glooms, and chilling rains enwrap thy feet)
The solemn requiem of the dying year ;
Not undelightful to my list'ning ear
Sound thy dull showers, as o'er my woodland seat,
Dismal, and drear, the leafless trees they beat,
Not undelightful, in their wild career,

Is the wild music of thy howling blasts,
Sweeping the groves' long aisle, while sullen Time
Thy stormy mantle o'er his shoulder casts,
And, rock'd upon his throne, with chant sublime,
Joins the full-pealing dirge, and winter weaves
Her dark sepulchral wreath of faded leaves.

MISFORTUNE.

MISFORTUNE, I am young, my chin is bare,
And I have wonder'd much when men have told
How youth was free from sorrow and from care,
That thou should'st dwell with me, and leave the
old.
Sure dost not like me! — Shrivell'd hag of hate,
My phiz, and thanks to thee, is sadly long;
I am not either, Beldame, over strong;
Nor do I wish at all to be thy mate,
For thou, sweet fury, art my utter hate.
Nay, shake not thus thy miserable pate,
I am yet young, and do not like thy face;
And, lest thou should'st resume the wild-goose
chase,
I'll tell thee something all thy heat to assuage,
— Thou wilt not hit my fancy in my age.

As thus oppress'd with many a heavy care,
(Though young yet sorrowful,) I turn my feet
To the dark woodland, longing much to greet
The form of Peace, if chance she sojourn there;
Deep thought and dismal, verging to despair,
Fills my sad breast; and, tired with this vain coil,
I shrink dismay'd before life's upland toil.
And as amid the leaves the evening air
Whispers still melody, — I think ere long,

When I no more can hear, these woods will speak ;
And then a sad smile plays upon my cheek,
And mournful phantasies upon me throng,
And I do ponder with most strange delight,
On the calm slumbers of the dead man's night.

TO APRIL.

EMBLEM of life ! see changeful April sail
In varying vest along the shadowy skies,
Now bidding Summer's softest zephyrs rise,
Anon, recalling Winter's stormy gale,
And pouring from the cloud her sudden hail ;
Then, smiling through the tear that dims her
 eyes,
While Iris with her braid the welkin dyes,
Promise of sunshine, not so prone to fail.
So to us, sojourners in Life's low vale,
The smiles of Fortune flatter to deceive,
While still the Fates the web of Misery weave ;
So Hope exultant spreads her æëry sail,
And from the present gloom the soul conveys
To distant summers and far happier days.

Ye unseen spirits, whose wild melodies,
At evening rising slow, yet sweetly clear,
Steal on the musing poet's pensive ear,
As by the wood-spring stretch'd supine he lies,
When he who now invokes you low is laid,
His tired frame resting on the earth's cold bed,
Hold ye your nightly vigils o'er his head,
And chant a dirge to his reposing shade
For he was wont to love your madrigals ;
And often by the haunted stream that laves
The dark sequester'd woodland's inmost caves,
Would sit and listen to the dying falls,

Till the full tear would quiver in his eye,
And his big heart would heave with mournful
ecstasy.

TO A TAPER.

'Tis midnight — On the globe dead slumber sits
And all is silence — in the hour of sleep;
Save when the hollow gust, that swells by fits,
In the dark wood roars fearfully and deep.
I wake alone to listen and to weep,
To watch, my taper, thy pale beacon burn;
And, as still Memory does her vigils keep,
To think of days that never can return.
By thy pale ray I raise my languid head,
My eye surveys the solitary gloom;
And the sad meaning tear, unmixt with dread,
Tells thou dost light me to the silent tomb.
Like thee I wane; like thine my life's last ray
Will fade in loneliness, unwept, away.

TO MY MOTHER.

AND canst thou, *Mother*, for a moment think,
That we, thy children, when old age shall shed,
Its blanching honours on thy weary head,
Could from our best of duties ever shrink?
Sooner the sun from his high sphere should sink
Than we, ungrateful, leave thee in that day,
To pine in solitude thy life away,
Or shun thee, tottering on the grave's cold brink.
Banish the thought! — where'er our steps may roam
O'er smiling plains, or wastes without a tree,
Still will fond memory point our hearts to thee,
And paint the pleasures of thy peaceful home;

While duty bids us all thy griefs assuage,
And smooth the pillow of thy sinking age.

Yes, 'twill be over soon. — This sickly dream
Of life will vanish from my feverish brain ;
And death my wearied spirit will redeem
From this wild region of unvaried pain.
Yon brook will glide as softly as before, —
Yon land-cape smile, — yon golden harvest grow, —
Yon sprightly lark on mounting wing will soar,
When Henry's name is heard no more below.
I sigh when all my youthful friends caress,
They laugh in health, and future evils brave ;
Them shall a wife and smiling children bless,
While I am mouldering in my silent grave.
God of the just — Thou gavest the bitter cup ;
I bow to thy behest, and drink it up.

TO CONSUMPTION.

GENTLY, most gently, on thy victim's head,
Consumption, lay thine hand ! — let me decay,
Like the expiring lamp, unseen, away,
And softly go to slumber with the dead.
And if 'tis true what holy men have said,
That strains angelic oft foretell the day
Of death, to those good men who fall thy prey,
O let the ærial music round my bed,
Dissolving sad in dying symphony,
Whisper the solemn warning in mine ear ;
That I may bid my weeping friends good bye
Ere I depart upon my journey drear :
And, smiling faintly on the painful past,
Compose my decent head, and breathe my last.

TRANSLATED

FROM THE FRENCH OF M. DESBARREAUX.

Thy judgments, Lord, are just : thou lovest to wear
 The face of pity and of love divine ;
 But mine is guilt — thou must not, canst not spare,
 While heaven is true, and equity is thine.
 Yes, O my God ! — such crimes as mine, so dread,
 Leave but the choice of punishment to thee ;
 Thy interest calls for judgment on my head,
 And even thy mercy dares not plead for me !
 Thy will be done — since 'tis thy glory's due,
 Did from mine eyes the endless torrents flow ;
 Smite — it is time — though endless death ensue,
 I bless the avenging hand that lays me low.
 But on what spot shall fall thine anger's flood,
 That has not first been drench'd in Christ's atoning
 blood ?

POEMS

OF A LATER DATE.

TO A FRIEND IN DISTRESS,

Who, when Henry reasoned with him calmly, asked,

“ If he did not feel for him ? ”

“ Do I not feel ? ” The doubt is keen as steel.
 Yea, I do feel — most exquisitely feel ;
 My heart can weep, when from my downcast eye
 I chase the tear, and stem the rising sigh :
 Deep buried there I close the rankling dart,
 And smile the most when heaviest is my heart.
 On this I act — whatever pangs surround,
'Tis magnanimity to hide the wound !

When all was new, and life was in its spring,
 I lived an unloved solitary thing;
 Even then I learnt to bury deep from day,
 The piercing cares that wore my youth away:
 Even then I learnt for others' cares to feel:
 Even then I wept I had not power to heal:
 Even then, deep-sounding through the nightly
 gloom,
 I heard the wretched's groan, and mourn'd the
 wretched's doom.

Who were my friends in youth? — The midnight
 fire —

The silent moon-beam, or the starry choir;
 To these I 'plain'd, or turn'd from outer sight,
 To bless my lonely taper's friendly light;
 I never yet could ask, howe'er forlorn,
 For vulgar pity mixt with vulgar scorn;
 The sacred source of woe I never ope,
 My breast's my coffer, and my God's my hope.
 But that I *do* feel, Time, my friend, will show,
 Though the cold crowd the secret never know:
 With them I laugh — yet when no eye can see,
 I weep for nature, and I weep for thee.
 Yes, thou didst wrong me, * * * ; I fondly
 thought

In thee I'd found the friend my heart had sought!
 I fondly thought, that thou could'st pierce the guise,
 And read the truth that in my bosom lies;
 I fondly thought, ere Time's last days were gone,
 Thy heart and mine had mingled into one!
 Yes, — and they yet will mingle. Days and years
 Will fly, and leave us partners in our tears:
 We then shall feel that friendship has a power
 To sooth affliction in her darkest hour;
 Time's trial o'er, shall clasp each other's hand,
 And wait the passport to a better land.

Thine,

H. K. WHITE.

Half-past Eleven o'Clock at Night.

CHRISTMAS-DAY.

1804.

YET once more, and once more, awake, my Harp,
From silence and neglect — one lofty strain,
Lofty, yet wilder than the winds of Heaven,
And speaking mysteries more than words can tell,
I ask of thee, for I, with hymnings high,
Would join the dirge of the departing year.

Yet with no wintry garland from the woods,
Wrought of the leafless branch of ivy sear,
Wreath I thy tresses, dark December ! now ;
Me higher quarrel calls, with loudest song,
And fearful joy, to celebrate the day
Of the Redeemer. — Near two thousand suns
Have set their seals upon the rolling lapse
Of generations, since the Day-spring first
Beam'd from on high ! — Now to the mighty mass
Of that increasing aggregate we add
One unit more. Space, in comparison,
How small, yet mark'd with how much misery ;
Wars, famines, and the fury, Pestilence,
Over the nations hanging her dread scourge ;
The oppressed too, in silent bitterness,
Weeping their sufferance ; and the arm of wrong,
Forcing the scanty portion from the weak,
And steeping the lone widow's couch with tears.
So has the year been character'd with woe
In Christian land, and mark'd with wrongs and
crimes.

Yet 'twas not thus *He* taught — not thus *He* lived,
Whose birth we this day celebrate with prayer
And much thanksgiving. — He, a man of woes,
Went on the way appointed, — path, though rude,
Yet borne with patience still : — He came to cheer
The broken-hearted, to raise up the sick,
And on the wandering and benighted mind
To pour the light of truth. — O task divine !
O more than angel teacher ! He had words

To soothe the barking waves, and hush the winds ;
 And when the soul was toss'd in troubled seas,
 Wrapt in thick darkness and the howling storm,
 He, pointing to the star of peace on high,
 Arm'd it with holy fortitude, and bade it smile
 At the surrounding wreck. —

When with deep agony his heart was rack'd,
 Not for himself the tear-drop dew'd his cheek,
 For *them* He wept, for *them* to Heaven He pray'd,
 His persecutors — " Father, pardon them,
 'They know not what they do.' "

Angels of Heaven,

Ye who beheld him fainting on the cross,
 And did him homage, say, may mortal join
 The hallelujahs of the risen God ?

Will the faint voice and grovelling song be heard
 Amid the seraphim in light divine ?

Yes, He will deign, the Prince of Peace will deign,
 For mercy, to accept the hymn of faith,
 Low though it be and humble. — Lord of life,
 The Christ, the Comforter, thine advent now
 Fills my uprising soul. I mount, I fly
 Far o'er the skies, beyond the rolling orbs ;
 The bonds of flesh dis-olve, and earth recedes,
 And care, and pain, and sorrow are no more.

* * * *

NELSONI MORS.

Yet once again, my Harp, yet once again,
 One ditty more, and on the mountain-ash
 I will again suspend thee. I have felt
 The warm tear frequent on my cheek, since last,
 At eventide, when all the winds were hush'd,
 I woke to thee the melancholy song.
 Since then with *Thoughtfulness*, a maid severe,
 I've journey'd, and have learn'd to shape the freaks
 Of frolic fancy to the line of truth ;
 Not unrepining, for my froward heart

Still turns to thee, mine Harp, and to the flow
Of spring-gales past — the woods and storied haunts
Of my not songless boyhood. — Yet once more,
Not fearless, I will wake thy tremulous tones,
My long-neglected Harp. — He must not sink ;
The good, the brave — he must not, shall not sink
Without the meed of some melodious tear,
Though from the Muse's chalice I may pour
No precious dew of Aganippe's well,
Or Castaly, — though from the morning cloud
I fetch no hues to scatter on his hearse :
Yet will I wreath a garland for his brows,
Of simple flowers, such as the hedge-row scent
Of Britain, my loved country ; and with tears
Most eloquent, yet silent, I will bathe
Thy honour'd corse, my Nelson, tears as warm
And *honest* as the ebbing blood that flow'd
Fast from thy *honest* heart. — Thou, Pity, too,
If ever I have loved, with faltering step,
To follow thee in the cold and starless night,
To the top-crag of some rain-beaten cliff ;
And as I heard the deep gun bursting loud
Amid the pauses of the storm, have pour'd
Wild strains, and mournful, to the hurrying winds
The dying soul's viaticum ; if oft
Amid the carnage of the field I've sate
With thee upon the moonlight throne, and sung
To cheer the fainting soldier's dying soul
With mercy and forgiveness — visitant
Of heaven — sit thou upon my harp,
And give it feeling, which were else too cold
For argument so great, for theme so high.

How dimly on that morn the sun arose,
'Kerchieft in mists, and tearful, when ——

PSALM XXII.

MY God, my God, oh, why dost thou forsake me?

Why art thou distant in the hour of fear?

To thee, my wonted help, I still betake me,

To thee I clamour, but thou dost not hear.

The beam of morning witnesses my sighing,

The lonely night-hour views me weep in vain,

Yet thou art holy, and, on thee relying,

Our fathers were released from grief and pain.

To thee they cried, and thou didst hear their wailing,

On thee they trusted, and their trust was sure;

But I, poor, lost, and wretched son of failing,

I, without hope, must scorn and hate endure.

Me they revile; with many ills molested,

They bid me seek of thee, O Lord, redress:

On God, they say, his hope and trust he rested,

Let God relieve him in his deep distress.

To me, Almighty! in thy mercy shining,

Life's dark and dangerous portals thou didst ope;

And softly on my mother's lap reclining,

Breathed through my breast the lively soul of hope.

Even from the womb, thou art my God, my Father!

Aid me, now trouble weighs me to the ground:

Me heavy ills have worn, and, faint and feeble,

The bulls of Bashan have beset me round.

My heart is melted and my soul is weary;

The wicked ones have pierced my hands and feet!

Lord, let thy influence cheer my bosom dreary:

My help! my strength! let me thy presence greet.

Save me! oh, save me! from the sword dividing,

Give me my darling from the jaws of death!

Thee will I praise, and in thy name confiding,

Proclaim thy mercies with my latest breath.

HYMN I.

THE Lord our God is full of might,
The winds obey his will :
He speaks, and in his heavenly height
The rolling sun stands still.

Rebel, ye waves, and o'er the land
With threat'ning aspect roar !
The Lord uplifts his awful hand,
And chains you to the shore.

Howl, winds of night, your force combine !
Without his high behest,
Ye shall not in the mountain pine
Disturb the sparrow's nest.

His voice sublime is heard afar,
In the distant peal it dies ;
He yokes the whirlwind to his car,
And sweeps the howling skies.

Ye nations bend, — in reverence bend ;
Ye monarchs, wait his nod ;
And bid the choral song ascend,
To celebrate your God.

HYMN II.

THE Lord our God is Lord of all,
His station who can find ?
I hear him in the waterfall !
I hear him in the wind !

If in the gloom of night I shroud,
His face I cannot fly ;
I see him in the evening cloud,
And in the morning sky.

He lives, he reigns in every land,
From winter's polar snows,
To where, across the burning sand,
The blasting meteor glows !

He smiles, we live ; he frowns, we die ;
We hang upon his word : —
He rears his red right arm on high,
And ruin bares the sword.

He bids his blasts the fields deform —
Then when his thunders cease,
Sits like an angel 'mid the storm,
And smiles the winds to peace !

HYMN III.

Thro' sorrow's night, and danger's path,
Amid the deepening gloom,
We, soldiers of an injured King,
Are marching to the tomb.

There, when the turmoil is no more,
And all our powers decay,
Our cold remains in solitude
Shall sleep the years away.

Our labours done, securely laid
In this our last retreat,
Unheeded, o'er our silent dust
The storms of life shall beat.

Yet not thus lifeless, thus inane,
The vital spark shall lie,
For o'er life's wreck that spark shall rise
To see its kindred sky.

These ashes, too, this little dust,
Our Father's care shall keep,
Till the last angel rise, and break
The long and dreary sleep.

Then love's soft dew o'er every eye
Shall shed its mildest rays,
And the long silent dust shall burst
With shouts of endless praise.

HYMN IV.

A FRAGMENT.

Much in sorrow, oft in woe,
Onward, Christians, onward go,
Fight the fight, and worn with strife,
Steep with tears the bread of life.

Onward, Christians, onward go,
Join the war, and face the foe ;
Faint not ! much doth yet remain,
Dreary is the long campaign.

Shrink not, Christians ; will ye yield ?
Will ye quit the painful field ?

* * * *

HYMN V.

CHRISTIANS ! brethren ! ere we part,
Join every voice and every heart ;
One solemn hymn to God we raise,
One final song of grateful praise.

Christians, we here may meet no more,
But there is yet a happier shore ;
And there, released from toil and pain,
Brethren, we shall meet again.

Now to God, the Three in One,
Be eternal glory done ;
Raise, ye saints, the sound again :
Ye nations, join the loud Amen.

HYMN.

In Heaven we shall be purified, so as to be able to endure the splendours of the Deity.

I.

AWAKE, sweet harp of Judah, wake,
Retune thy strings for Jesus' sake ;
We sing the Saviour of our race,
The Lamb, our shield, and hiding-place.

II.

When God's right arm is bared for war,
And thunders clothe his cloudy car,
Where, where, oh where, shall man retire,
To escape the horrors of his ire ?

III.

'Tis he, the Lamb, to him we fly,
While the dread tempest passes by ;
God sees his Well-beloved's face,
And spares us in our hiding-place.

IV.

Thus while we dwell in this low scene,
The Lamb is our unfailing screen ;
To him, though guilty, still we run,
And God still spares us for his Son.

V.

While yet we sojourn here below,
Pollutions still our hearts o'erflow ;
Fallen, abject, mean, a sentenced race,
We deeply need a hiding-place.

VI.

Yet courage — days and years will glide,
And we shall lay these clods aside ;
Shall be baptized in Jordan's flood,
And wash'd in Jesus' cleansing blood.

VII.

Then pure, immortal, sinless, freed,
We through the Lamb shall be decreed ;
Shall meet the Father face to face,
And need no more a hiding-place.

The last stanza of this hymn was added extemporaneously by Henry, one summer evening, when he was with a few friends, on the Trent, and singing it as he was used to do on such occasions.

A HYMN.

FOR FAMILY WORSHIP.

I.

O Lord, another day is flown,
And we, a lonely band,
Are met once more before thy throne,
To bless thy fostering hand.

II.

And wilt thou bend a listening ear,
To praises low as ours ?
Thou wilt ! for thou dost love to hear
The song which meekness pours.

III.

And, Jesus, thou thy smiles will deign,
As we before thee pray ;
For thou didst bless the infant train,
And we are less than they.

IV.

O let thy grace perform its part,
And let contention cease ;
And shed abroad in every heart
Thine everlasting peace !

V.

Thus chasten'd, cleansed, entirely thine,
A flock by Jesus led ;
The Sun of Holiness shall shine,
In glory on our head.

VI.

And thou wilt turn our wandering feet,
And thou wilt bless our way ;
Till worlds shall fade, and faith shall greet
The dawn of lasting day.

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM.

I.

WHEN marshall'd on the nightly plain,
The glittering host bestud the sky ;
One star alone, of all the train,
Can fix the sinner's wandering eye.

II.

Hark ! hark ! to God the chorus breaks,
From every host, from every gem :
But one alone the Saviour speaks,
It is the Star of Bethlehem.

III.

Once on the raging seas I rode,
The storm was loud — the night was dark,
The ocean yawn'd — and rudely blow'd
The wind that toss'd my foundering bark.

IV.

Deep horror then my vitals froze,
Death-struck, I ceased the tide to stem ;
When suddenly a star arose,
It was the star of Bethlehem.

V.

It was my guide, my light, my all,
It bade my dark forebodings cease ;
And through the storm and dangers' thrall,
It led me to the port of peace.

VI.

Now safely moor'd — my perils o'er,
I'll sing, first in night's diadem,
For ever and for evermore,
The Star ! — The Star of Bethlehem !

A HYMN.

O Lord, my God, in mercy turn,
In mercy hear a sinner mourn !
To thee I call, to thee I cry,
O leave me, leave me not to die !

I strove against thee, Lord, I know,
I spurn'd thy grace, I mock'd thy law ;
The hour is past — the day's gone by,
And I am left alone to die.

O pleasures past, what are ye now
But thorns about my bleeding brow
Sceptres that hover round my brain,
And aggravate and mock my pain.

For pleasure I have given my soul ;
Now, Justice, let thy thunders roll
Now Vengeance smile — and with a blow,
Lay the rebellious ingrate low.

Yet Jesus, Jesus ! there I'll cling,
I'll crowd beneath his sheltering wing ;
I'll clasp the cross, and holding there,
Even me, oh bliss ! — his wrath may spare.

MELODY.

Inserted in a Collection of Selected and Original Songs, published by the Rev. J. Plumptre, of Clare Hall, Cambridge.

I.

YES, once more that dying strain,
 Anna, touch thy lute for me;
 Sweet, when Pity's tones complain,
 Doubly sweet is melody.

II.

While the Virtues thus enweave
 Mildly soft the thrilling song,
 Winter's long and lonesome eve
 Glides unfelt, unseen, along.

III.

Thus when life hath stolen away,
 And the wintry^d night is near,
 Thus shall Virtue's friendly ray
 Age's closing evening cheer.

SONG. — BY WALLER.

A Lady of Cambridge lent Waller's Poems to Henry, and when he returned them to her, she discovered an additional stanza written by him at the bottom of the Song here copied.

Go, lovely rose!
 Tell her, that wastes her time and me,
 That now she knows,
 When I resemble her to thee,
 How sweet and fair she seems to be.

Tell her that's young,
 And shuns to have her graces spied,
 That hadst thou sprung
 In deserts, where no men abide,
 Thou must have uncommended died.

Small is the worth
Of beauty from the light retired ;
 Bid her come forth,
Suffer herself to be desired,
And not blush so to be admired.

Then die, that she
The common fate of all things rare
 May read in thee ;
How small a part of time they share,
That are so wondrous sweet and fair.

[Yet, though thou fade,
From thy dead leaves let fragrance rise,
 And teach the Maid
That Goodness Time's rude hand defies ;
That Virtue lives when Beauty dies.]
 H. K. WHITE.

" I AM PLEASED, AND YET I'M SAD."

I.

WHEN twilight steals along the ground,
And all the bells are ringing round,
 One, two, three, four, and five,
I at my study-window sit,
And, wrapt in many a musing fit,
 To bliss am all alive.

II.

But though impressions calm and sweet
Thrill round my heart a holy heat,
 And I am only glad,
The tear-drop stands in either eye,
And yet I cannot tell thee why,
 I am pleased and yet I'm sad.

III.

The silvery rack that flies away
Like mortal life or pleasure's ray,
Does that disturb my breast ?
Nay, what have I, a studious man,
To do with life's unstable plan,
Or pleasure's fading vest ?

IV.

Is it that here I must not stop,
But o'er yon blue hill's woody top
Must bend my lonely way ?
No, surely no ! for give but me
My own fire-side, and I shall be
At home where'er I stray.

V.

Then is it that yon steeple there,
With music sweet shall fill the air,
When thou no more canst hear ?
Oh, no ! oh, no ! for then forgiven
I shall be with my God in Heaven,
Released from every fear.

VI.

Then whence it is I cannot tell,
But there is some mysterious spell
That holds me when I'm glad ;
And so the tear-drop fills my eye,
When yet in truth I know not why,
Or wherefore I am sad.

SOLITUDE.

It is not that my lot is low,
That bids the silent tear to flow ;
It is not grief that bids me moan,
It is that I am all alone.

In woods and glens I love to roam,
When the tired hedger hies him home ;
Or by the woodland pool to rest,
When pale the star looks on its breast.

Yet when the silent evening sighs,
With hallow'd airs and symphonies,
My spirit takes another tone,
And sighs that it is all alone.

The autumn leaf is sear and dead —
It floats upon the water's bed ;
I would not be a leaf, to die
Without recording sorrow's sigh !

The woods and winds, with sudden wail,
Tell all the same unvaried tale ;
I've none to smile when I am free,
And when I sigh, to sigh with me.

Yet in my dreams a form I view,
That thinks on me, and loves me too :
I start ; and, when the vision's flown,
I weep that I am all alone.

If far from me the Fates remove
Domestic peace, connubial love,
The prattling ring, the social cheer,
Affection's voice, affection's tear ;
Ye sterner powers, that bind the heart,
To me your iron aid impart !
O teach me, when the nights are chill,
And my fire-side is lone and still ;
When to the blaze that crackles near
I turn a tired and pensive ear,
And Nature, conquering, bids me sigh
For love's soft accents whispering nigh ; —
O teach me, on that heavenly road
That leads to Truth's occult abode,

To wrap my soul in dreams divine,
 Till earth and care no more be mine.
 Let blest Philosophy impart
 Her soothing measures to my heart ;
 And while, with Plato's ravish'd ears,
 I list the music of the spheres,
 Or on the mystic symbols pore,
 That hide the Chald's sublimer lore,
 I shall not brood on summers gone,
 Nor think that I am all alone.

I

FANNY! upon thy breast I may not lie!

Fanny! thou dost not hear me when I speak!
 Where art thou, love? — Around I turn my eye,
 And, as I turn, the tear is on my cheek.
 Was it a dream? or did my love behold
 Indeed my lonely couch? — Methought the breath
 Fann'd not her bloodless lip; her eye was cold
 And hollow, and the livery of death
 Invested her pale forehead. — Sainted maid!
 My thoughts oft rest with thee in thy cold grave,
 Through the long wintry night, when wind and
 wave
 Rock the dark house where thy poor head is laid.
 Yet, hush! my fond heart, hush! there is a shore
 Of better promise; and I know at last,
 When the long sabbath of the tomb is past,
 We two shall meet in Christ — to part no more.

FRAGMENTS.

These Fragments are Henry's latest compositions; and were, for the most part, written upon the back of his mathematical papers, during the few moments of the last year of his life, in which he suffered himself to follow the impulse of his genius.

I.

Saw'st thou that light? exclaim'd the youth, and
 paused:
 Through yon dark firs it glanced, and on the stream

That skirts the woods it for a moment play'd.
 Again, more light it gleam'd, — or does some sprite
 Delude mine eyes with shapes of wood and streams,
 And lamp far beaming through the thicket's gloom,
 As from some bosom'd cabin, where the voice
 Of revelry, or thrifty watchfulness,
 Keeps in the lights at this unwonted hour?
 No sprite deludes mine eyes, — the beam now glows
 With steady lustre. — Can it be the moon,
 Who, hidden long by the invidious veil
 That blots the Heavens, now sets behind the woods?
 No moon to-night has look'd upon the sea
 Of clouds beneath her, answer'd Rudiger,
 She has been sleeping with Endymion.

* * * * *

II.

THE pious man,
 In this bad world, when mists and couchant storms
 Hide Heaven's fine circlet, springs aloft in faith
 Above the clouds that threat him, to the fields
 Of ether, where the day is never veil'd
 With intervening vapours; and looks down
 Serene upon the troublous sea, that hides
 The earth's fair breast, that sea whose nether face
 To grovelling mortals frowns and darkens all;
 But on whose billowy back, from man conceal'd,
 The glaring sunbeam plays.

III.

Lo! on the eastern summit, clad in grey,
 Morn, like a horseman girt for travel, comes;
 And from his tower of mist,
 Night's watchman hurries down.

IV

There was a little bird upon that pile ;
 It perch'd upon a ruin'd pinnacle,
 And made sweet melody.
 The song was soft, yet cheerful, and most clear ;
 For other note none swell'd the air but his.
 It seem'd as if the little chorister,
 Sole tenant of the melancholy pile,
 Were a lone hermit, outcast from his kind,
 Yet withal cheerful. — I have heard the note
 Echoing so lonely o'er the aisle forlorn,
 ——— Much musing —

V.

O PALE art thou, my lamp, and faint
 Thy melancholy ray,
 When the still night's unclouded saint
 Is walking on her way,
 Through my lattice, leaf embower'd,
 Fair she sheds her shadowy beam,
 And o'er my silent sacred room
 Casts a chequer'd twilight gloom :
 I throw aside the learned sheet ;
 I cannot choose but gaze, she looks so mildly sweet.
 Sad vestal ! why art thou so fair ?
 Or why am I so frail ?

Methinks thou lookest kindly on me, Moon,
 And cheerest my lone hours with sweet regards !
 Surely like me thou'rt sad, but dost not speak
 Thy sadness to the cold unheeding crowd ;
 So mournfully composed, o'er yonder cloud
 Thou shinest, like a cresset, beaming far
 From the rude watch-tower, o'er the Atlantic wave.

VI.

O give me music — for my soul doth faint ;
 I am sick of noise and care ; and now mine ear
 Longs for some air of peace, some dying plaint,
 That may the spirit from its cell unsphere.

Hark how it fails ! and now it steals along,
 Like distant bells upon the lake at eve,
 When all is still ; and now it grows more strong,
 As when the choral train their dirges weave,
 Mellow and many-voiced ; where every close,
 O'er the old minster roof, in echoing waves reflows.

Oh ! I am rapt aloft. My spirit soars
 Beyond the skies, and leaves the stars behind.
 Lo ! angels lead me to the happy shores,
 And floating peans fill the buoyant wind.
 Farewell ! base earth, farewell ! my soul is freed,
 Far from its clayey cell it springs, —

* * * *

VII.

Ah ! who can say, however fair his view,
 Through what sad scenes his path may lie ?
 Ah ! who can give to others' woes his sigh,
 Secure his own will never need it too ?

Let thoughtless youth its seeming joys pursue ;
 Soon will they learn to scan with thoughtful eye
 The illusive past and dark futurity :
 Soon will they know —

* * *

VIII.

And must thou go ? and must we part ?
 Yes ; Fate decrees, and I submit ;
 The pang that rends in twain my heart —
 Oh, Fanny, dost thou share in it ?

Thy sex is fickle, — when away,
 Some happier youth may win thy —

* * * *

IX.

SONNET.

WHEN I sit musing on the chequer'd past,
 (A term much darken'd with untimely woes,)
 My thoughts revert to her, for whom still flows
 The tear, though half disown'd ; — and binding fast
 Pride's stubborn cheat to my too yielding heart,
 I say to her, she robb'd me of my rest,
 When that was all my wealth. — 'Tis true my
 breast
 Received from her this wearying, lingering smart ;
 Yet, ah ! I cannot bid her form depart ;
 Though wrong'd, I love her — yet in anger love,
 For she was most unworthy. — Then I prove
 Vindictive joy ; and on my stern front gleams,
 Throned in dark clouds, inflexible * * *
 The native pride of my much injured heart.

X.

WHEN high romance o'er every wood and stream
 Dark lustre shed, my infant mind to fire,
 Spell-struck, and fill'd with many a wondering dream,
 First in the groves I woke the pensive lyre.
 All there was mystery then ; the gust that woke
 The midnight echo with a spirit's dirge,
 And unseen fairies would the moon invoke
 To their light morrice by the restless surge.
 Now to my sober'd thought with life's false smiles,
 Too much * *
 The vagrant Fancy spreads no more her wiles,
 And dark forebodings now my bosom fill.

XI.

Hush'd is the lyre — the hand that swept
The low and pensive wires,
Robb'd of its cunning, from the task retires.

Yes — it is still — the lyre is still ;
The spirit which its slumbers broke
Hath pass'd away, — and that weak hand that
woke
Its forest melodies hath lost its skill.

Yet I would press you to my lips once more,
Ye wild, ye withering flowers of poesy ;
Yet would I drink the fragrance which ye pour,
Mix'd with decaying odours : for to me
Ye have beguiled the hours of infancy,
As in the wood-paths of my native —

* * * *

XII.

Once more, and yet once more,
I give unto my harp a dark-woven lay ;
I heard the waters roar,
I heard the flood of ages pass away.
O thou, stern spirit ! who dost dwell
In thine eternal cell,
Noting, grey chronicler ! the silent years ;
I saw thee rise, — I saw the scroll complete ;
Thou spakest, and at thy feet
The universe gave way.

TIME,

A POEM.

This poem was begun either during the publication of *Clifton Grove*, or shortly afterwards. Henry never laid aside the intention of completing it, and some of the detached parts were among his latest productions.

GENIUS of musings! who, the midnight hour
Wasting in woods or haunted forests wild,
Dost watch Orion in his arctic tower,
Thy dark eye fix'd as in some holy trance;
Or when the volley'd lightnings cleave the air,
And Ruin gaunt bestrides the winged storm,
Sitt'st in some lonely watch-tower, where thy lamp,
Faint-blazing, strikes the fisher's eye from far,
And, 'mid the howl of elements, unmoved,
Dost ponder on the awful scene, and trace
The vast *effect* to its superior source, —
Spirit, attend my lowly benison!
For now I strike to themes of import high
The solitary lyre; and, borne by thee
Above this narrow cell, I celebrate
The mysteries of Time!

Him, who august
Was ere these worlds were fashion'd, — ere the sun
Sprang from the east, or Lucifer display'd
His glowing crescent in the arch of morn,
Or Vesper gilded the serener eye.
Yea, He had been for an eternity!
Had swept unvarying from eternity
The harp of desolation — ere his tones,
At God's command, assumed a milder strain,
And startled on his watch, in the vast deep,
Chaos's sluggish sentry, and evoked
From the dark void the smiling universe.

Chain'd to the grovelling frailties of the flesh,
Mere mortal man, unpurged from earthly dross,
Cannot survey, with fix'd and steady eye,
The dim uncertain gulf, which now the muse,

Adventurous, would explore ; — but, dizzy grown,
He topples down the abyss. — If he would scan
The fearful chasm, and catch a transient glimpse
Of its unfathomable depths, that so
His mind may turn with double joy to God,
His only certainty and resting place ;
He must put off awhile this mortal vest,
And learn to follow, without giddiness,
To heights where all is vision and surprise,
And vague conjecture. — He must waste by night
The studious taper, far from all resort
Of crowds and folly, in some still retreat ;
High on the beetling promontory's crest,
Or in the caves of the vast wilderness,
Where, compass'd round with Nature's wildest
shapes,

He may be driven to centre all his thoughts
In the great Architect, who lives confest
In rocks, and seas, and solitary wastes.

So has divine Philosophy, with voice
Mild as the murmurs of the moonlight wave,
Tutor'd the heart of him, who now awakes,
Touching the chords of solemn minstrelsy,
His faint, neglected song — intend to snatch
Some vagrant blossom from the dangerous steep
Of poetry — a bloom of such an hue,
So sober, as may not unseemly suit
With Truth's severer brow ; and one withal
So hardy as shall brave the passing wind
Of many winters, — rearing its meek head
In loveliness, when he who gather'd it
Is number'd with the generations gone.
Yet not to me hath God's good providence
Given studious lecture *, or unbroken thought,
Such as he owns, — a meditative man,
Who from the blush of morn to quiet eve
Ponders, or turns the page of wisdom o'er,
Far from the busy crowd's tumultuous din ;
From noise and wrangling far, and undisturb'd

* The author was then in an attorney's office.

With Mirth's unholy shouts. For me the day
Hath duties which require the vigorous hand
Of stedfast application, but which leave
No deep improving trace upon the mind.
But be the day another's ! — let it pass !
The night's my own — they cannot steal my night !
When evening lights her folding star on high,
I live and breathe ; and, in the sacred hours
Of quiet and repose, my spirit flies,
Free as the morning, o'er the realms of space,
And mounts the skies, and imp's her wing for heaven.

Hence do I love the sober-suited maid ;
Hence Night's my friend, my mistress, and my
theme,
And she shall aid me now to magnify
The night of ages, — now, when the pale ray
Of star-light penetrates the studious gloom,
And, at my window seated, while mankind
Are lock'd in sleep, I feel the freshening breeze
Of stillness blow, while, in her saddest stole,
Thought, like a wakeful vestal at her shrine,
Assumes her wonted sway.

Behold the world
Rests, and her tired inhabitants have paused
From trouble and turmoil. The widow now
Has ceased to weep, and her twin-orphans lie
Lock'd in each arm, partakers of her rest.
The man of sorrow has forgot his woes ;
The outcast that his head is shelterless —
His griefs unshared. — The mother tends no more
Her daughter's dying slumbers, but surprised
With heaviness, and sunk upon her couch,
Dreams of her bridal. Even the hectic lull'd
On Death's lean arm to rest, in visions wrapt,
Crowning with Hope's bland wreath his shuddering
nurse,
Poor victim ! smiles. — Silence and deep repose
Reign o'er the nations ; and the warning voice
Of Nature utters audibly within
The general moral ; — tells us that repose,

Deathlike as this, but of far longer span,
Is coming on us — that the weary crowds,
Who now enjoy a temporary calm,
Shall soon taste lasting quiet, wrapt around
With grave-clothes ; and their aching restless heads
Mouldering in holes and corners unobserved
Till the last trump shall break their sullen sleep.

Who needs a teacher to admonish him
That flesh is grass, that earthly things are mist ?
What are our joys but dreams ? and what our hopes
But goodly shadows in the summer cloud ?
There's not a wind that blows but bears with it
Some rainbow promise : — Not a moment flies
But puts its sickle in the fields of life,
And mows its thousands, with their joys and cares.
'Tis but as yesterday, since on yon stars,
Which now I view, the Chaldee shepherd * gazed
In his mid-watch observant, and disposed
The twinkling hosts as fancy gave them shape :
Yet in the interim what mighty shocks
Have buffeted mankind — whole nations razed —
Cities made desolate, — the polish'd sunk
To barbarism, and once barbaric states
Swaying the wand of science and of arts ;
Illustrious deeds and memorable names
Blotted from record, and upon the tongue
Of grey Tradition, voluble no more.

Where are the heroes of the ages past ?
Where the brave chieftains ? where the mighty one
Who flourish'd in the infancy of days ?
All to the grave gone down. On their fallen fame
Exultant, mocking at the pride of man,
Sits grim *Forgetfulness*. — The warrior's arm
Lies nerveless on the pillow of its shame ;
Hush'd is his stormy voice, and quench'd the blaze
Of his red eye-ball. — Yesterday his name
Was mighty on the earth. — To-day — 'tis what ?

* Alluding to the first astronomical observations made by the Chaldean shepherds.

The meteor of the night of distant years,
That flash'd unnoticed, save by wrinkled eld,
Musing at midnight upon prophecies,
Who at her lonely lattice saw the gleam
Point to the mist-poised shroud, then quietly
Closed her pale lips, and lock'd the secret up
Safe in the charnel's treasures.

O how weak
Is mortal man ! how trifling — how confined
His scope of vision ! Puff'd with confidence,
His phrase grows big with immortality,
And he, poor insect of a summer's day !
Dreams of eternal honours to his name ;
Of endless glory and perennial bays.
He idly reasons of eternity,
As of the train of ages, — when, alas !
Ten thousand thousand of his centuries
Are, in comparison, a little point
Too trivial for account. — O, it is strange,
'Tis passing strange, to mark his fallacies ;
Behold him proudly view some pompous pile,
Whose high dome swells to emulate the skies,
And smile, and say, My name shall live with this
Till time shall be no more ; while at his feet,
Yea, at his very feet, the crumbling dust
Of the fallen fabric of the other day
Preaches the solemn lesson. He *should* know
That time must conquer ; that the loudest blast
That ever filled Renown's obstreperous trump
Fades in the lapse of ages, and expires.
Who lies inhumed in the terrific gloom
Of the gigantic pyramid ? or who
Rear'd its huge walls ? Oblivion laughs, and says,
The prey is mine. — They sleep ; and never more
Their names shall strike upon the ear of man,
Their memory burst its fetters.

Where is *Rome* ?

She lives but in the tale of other times :
Her proud pavilions are the hermit's home ;
And her long colonnades, her public walks,
Now faintly echo to the pilgrim's feet,
Who comes to muse in solitude, and trace,

Through the rank moss reveal'd, her honour'd dust.
 But not to Rome alone has fate confined
 The doom of ruin ; cities numberless,
 Tyre, Sidon, Carthage, Babylon, and Troy,
 And rich Phœnicia — they are blotted out,
 Half-razed from memory, and their very name
 And being in dispute. — Has Athens fallen ?
 Is polish'd Greece become the savage seat
 Of ignorance and sloth ? and shall we dare

* * * *
 * * * *
 * * * *

And empire seeks another hemisphere.
 Where now is Britain ? — Where her laurell'd
 names,
 Her palaces and halls ? Dash'd in the dust.
 Some second Vandal hath reduced her pride,
 And with one big recoil hath thrown her back
 To primitive barbarity. — Again,
 Through her depopulated vales, the scream
 Of bloody Superstition hollow rings,
 And the scared native to the tempest howls
 The yell of deprecation. O'er her marts,
 Her crowded ports, broods Silence ; and the cry
 Of the low curlew, and the pensive dash
 Of distant billows, breaks alone the void.
 Even as the savage sits upon the stone
 That marks where stood her capitol, and hears
 The bittern booming in the weeds, he shrinks
 From the dismaying solitude. — Her bards
 Sing in a language that hath perish'd ;
 And their wild harps, suspended o'er their graves,
 Sigh to the desert winds a dying strain.

Meanwhile the Arts, in second infancy,
 Rise in some distant clime ; and then, perchance
 Some bold adventurer, fill'd with golden dreams,
 Steering his bark through trackless solitudes,
 Where, to his wandering thoughts, no daring prow
 Hath ever plough'd before, espies the cliffs
 Of fallen Albion. — To the land unknown
 He journeys joyful ; and perhaps descries

Some vestige of her ancient stateliness :
Then he, with vain conjecture, fills his mind
Of the unheard-of race, which had arrived
At science in that solitary nook,
Far from the civil world ; and sagely sighs,
And moralizes on the state of man.

Still on its march, unnoticed and unfelt,
Moves on our being. We do live and breathe,
And we are gone. The spoiler heeds us not.
We have our spring-time and our rottenness ;
And, as we fall, another race succeeds,
To perish likewise. — Meanwhile Nature smiles —
The seasons run their round — the sun fulfils
His annual course — and Heaven and earth remain
Still changing, yet unchanged — still doom'd to feel
Endless mutation in perpetual rest.
Where are conceal'd the days which have elapsed ?
Hid in the mighty cavern of *the past*,
They rise upon us only to appal,
By indistinct and half-glimpsed images,
Misty, gigantic, huge, obscure, remote.

Oh, it is fearful, on the midnight couch,
When the rude rushing winds forget to rave,
And the pale moon, that through the casement high
Surveys the sleepless muser, stamps the hour
Of utter silence, — it is fearful then
To steer the mind, in deadly solitude,
Up the vague stream of probability ;
To wind the mighty secrets of *the past*,
And turn the key of Time ! — Oh ! who can strive
To comprehend the vast, the awful truth,
Of the *eternity that hath gone by*,
And not recoil from the dismaying sense
Of human impotence ? The life of man
Is summ'd in birthdays and in sepulchres :
But the Eternal God had no beginning ;
He hath no end. Time had been with him
For *everlasting*, ere the dædal world
Rose from the gulf in loveliness. — Like him
It knew no source — like him 'twas uncreate.

What is it then ? The past Eternity !
 We comprehend a *future* without end ;
 We feel it possible that e'en yon sun
 May roll for ever : but we shrink amazed—
 We stand aghast, when we reflect that Time
 Knew no commencement ; — that, heap age on age,
 And million upon million, without end,
 And we shall never span the void of days
 That were, and are not but in retrospect.
 The Past is an unfathomable depth,
 Beyond the span of thought ; 'tis an elapse
 Which hath no mensuration, but hath been
 For ever and for ever.

Change of days

To us is sensible : and each revolve
 Of the recording sun conducts us on
 Further in life, and nearer to our goal.
 Not so with Time, — mysterious chronicler,
 He knoweth not mutation ; — centuries
 Are to his being as a day, and days
 As centuries. — Time past, and Time to come,
 Are always equal ; when the world began
 God had existed from eternity.

* * * * *

Now look on man

Myriads of ages hence. — Hath time elapsed ?
 Is he not standing in the self-same place
 Where once we stood ? — The same eternity
 Hath gone before him, and is yet to come :
 His *past* is not of longer span than ours,
 Though myriads of ages intervened ;
 For who can add to what has neither sum,
 Nor bound, nor source, nor estimate, nor end ?
 Oh, who can compass the Almighty mind ?
 Who can unlock the secrets of the High ?
 In speculations of an altitude
 Sublime as this, our reason stands confest
 Foolish, and insignificant, and mean. —
 Who can apply the subtle argument
 Of finite beings to infinity ?
 He might as well compress the universe

Into the hollow compass of a gourd,
Scoop'd out by human art ; or bid the whale
Drink up the sea it swims in ! — Can the less
Contain the greater ? or the dark obscure
Infold the glories of meridian day ?
What does Philosophy impart to man
But undiscover'd wonders ? — Let her soar
Even to her proudest heights — to where she caught
The soul of Newton and of Socrates, —
She but extends the scope of wild amaze
And admiration. All her lessons end
In wider views of God's unfathom'd depths.

Lo ! the unletter'd hind, who never knew
To raise his mind excursive to the heights
Of abstract contemplation, as he sits
On the green hillock by the hedgerow side,
What time the insect swarms are murmuring,
And marks, in silent thought, the broken clouds
That fringe with loveliest hues the evening sky,
Feels in his soul the hand of Nature rouse
The thrill of gratitude, to him who form'd
The goodly prospect ; he beholds the God
Throned in the west, and his reposing ear
Hears sounds angelic in the fitful breeze
That floats through neighbouring copse or fairy
brake,
Or lingers playful on the haunted stream.
Go with the cotter to his winter fire,
Where o'er the moors the loud blast whistles shrill,
And the hoarse han-dog bays the icy moon ;
Mark with what awe he lists the wild uproar,
Silent, and big with thought ; and hear him bless
The God that rides on the tempestuous clouds
For his snug hearth, and all his little joys :
Hear him compare his happier lot with his
Who bends his way across the wintry wolds,
A poor night-traveller, while the dismal snow
Beats in his face, and, dubious of his path,
He stops, and thinks, in every lengthening blast,
He hears some village-mastiff's distant howl,
And sees, far streaming, some lone cottage light ;

Then, undeceived, upturns his streaming eyes,
 And clasps his shivering hands; or, overpower'd,
 Sinks on the frozen ground, weigh'd down with
 sleep,

From which the hapless wretch shall never wake.
 Thus the poor rustic warms his heart with praise
 And glowing gratitude, — he turns to bless,
 With honest warmth, his Maker and his God!
 And shall it e'er be said, that a poor hind,
 Nursed in the lap of Ignorance, and bred
 In want and labour, glows with nobler zeal
 To laud his Maker's attributes; while he
 Whom starry Science in her cradle rock'd,
 And Castaly enchain'd with its dews,
 Closes his eyes upon the holy word,
 And, blind to all but arrogance and pride,
 Dares to declare his infidelity,
 And openly condemn the Lord of Hosts?
 What is philosophy, if it impart
 Irreverence for the Deity, or teach
 A mortal man to set his judgment up
 Against his Maker's will? — The Polygar,
 Who kneels to sun or moon, compared with him
 Who thus perverts the talents he enjoys,
 Is the most bless'd of men! — Oh! I would walk
 A weary journey, to the furthest verge
 Of the big world, to kiss that good man's hand,
 Who, in the blaze of wisdom and of art,
 Preserves a lowly mind; and to his God,
 Feeling the sense of his own littleness,
 Is as a child in meek simplicity!
 What is the pomp of learning? the parade
 Of letters and of tongues? E'en as the mists
 Of the grey morn before the rising sun,
 That pass away and perish.

Earthly things

Are but the transient pageants of an hour;
 And earthly pride is like the passing flower,
 That springs to fall, and blossoms but to die.
 'Tis as the tower erected on a cloud,
 Baseless and silly as the school-boy's dream.
 Ages and epochs that destroy our pride,

And then record its downfall, what are they '
 But the poor creatures of man's teeming brain ?
 Hath Heaven its ages ? or doth Heaven preserve
 Its stated eras ? Doth the Omnipotent
 Hear of to-morrows or of yesterdays ?
 There is to God nor future nor a past :
 Throned in his might, all times to him are present ;
 He hath no lapse, no past, no time to come ;
 He sees before him one eternal now.
 Time moveth not ! — our being 'tis that moves :
 And we, swift gliding down life's rapid stream,
 Dream of swift ages and revolving years,
 Ordain'd to chronicle our passing days ;
 So the young sailor in the gallant bark
 Scudding before the wind beholds the coast
 Receding from his eyes, and thinks the while,
 Struck with amaze, that he is motionless,
 And that the land is sailing.

Such, alas !

Are the illusions of this Proteus life ;
 All, all is fake : through every phasis still
 'Tis shadowy and deceitful. It assumes
 The semblances of things and specious shapes ;
 But the lost traveller might as soon rely
 On the evasive spirit of the marsh,
 Whose lantern beams, and vanishes, and flits,
 O'er bog, and rock, and pit, and hollow way,
 As we on its appearances.

On earth

There is nor certainty nor stable hope.
 As well the weary mariner, whose bark
 Is toss'd beyond Cimmerian Bosphorus,
 Where Storm and Darkness hold their drear do-
 main,
 And sunbeams never penetrate, might trust
 To expectation of serener skies,
 And linger in the very jaws of death,
 Because some peevish cloud were opening,
 Or the loud storm had bated in its rage ;
 As we look forward in this vale of tears
 To permanent delight — from some slight glimpse
 Of shadowy unsubstantial happiness.

The good man's hope is laid far, far beyond
The sway of tempests, or the furious sweep
Of mortal desolation. — He beholds,
Unapprehensive, the gigantic stride
Of rampant Ruin, or the unstable waves
Of dark Vicissitude. — Even in death,
In that dread hour, when, with a giant pang,
Tearing the tender fibres of the heart,
The immortal spirit struggles to be free, —
Then, even then, that hope forsakes him not ;
For it exists beyond the narrow verge
Of the cold sepulchre. — The petty joys
Of fleeting life indignantly it spurn'd,
And rested on the bosom of its God.
This is man's only reasonable hope ;
And 'tis a hope which, cherish'd in the breast,
Shall not be disappointed. — Even He,
The Holy One — Almighty — who elanced
The rolling world along its airy way ;
Even He will deign to smile upon the good,
And welcome him to these celestial seats,
Where joy and gladness hold their changeless reign.
Thou, proud man, look upon yon starry vault ;
Survey the countless gems which richly stud
The Night's imperial chariot ; — telescopes
Will show thee myriads more innumerable
Than the sea-sand ; — each of those little lamps
Is the great source of light, the central sun
Round which some other mighty sisterhood
Of planets travel, every planet stock'd
With living beings impotent as thee.
Now, proud man ! now, where is thy greatness fled ?
What art thou in the scale of universe ?
Less, less than nothing ! — Yet of thee the God
Who built this wondrous frame of worlds is careful,
As well as of the mendicant who begs
The leavings of thy table. And shalt thou
Lift up thy thankless spirit, and contemn
His heavenly providence ? Deluded fool,
Even now the thunderbolt is wing'd with death,
Even now thou totterest on the brink of hell,

How insignificant is mortal man,
Bound to the hasty pinions of an hour;
How poor, how trivial in the vast conceit
Of infinite duration, boundless space!
God of the universe! Almighty One!
Thou who dost walk upon the winged winds,
Or, with the storm thy rugged charioteer,
Swift and impetuous as the northern blast,
Ridest from pole to pole — Thou who dost hold
The forked lightnings in thine awful grasp,
And rearest in the earthquake, when thy wrath
Goes down towards erring man, — I would address
To Thee my parting psalm: for of Thee,
Great beyond comprehension, who thyself
Art Time and Space, sublime Infinitude,
Of Thee has been my song. — With awe I kneel
Trembling before the footstool of thy state,
My God! my Father! — I will sing to Thee
A hymn of laud, a solemn canticle,
Ere on the cypress wreath, which overshades
The throne of Death, I hang my mournful lyre,
And give its wild strings to the desert gale.
Rise, Son of Salem! rise, and join the strain;
Sweep to accordant tones thy tuneful harp,
And, leaving vain laments, arouse thy soul
To exultation. Sing hosanna, sing,
And hallelujah, for the Lord is great
And full of mercy! He has thought of man;
Yea, compass'd round with countless worlds, has
thought
Of we poor worms, that batten in the dews
Of morn, and perish ere the noon-day sun.
Sing to the Lord, for he is merciful:
He gave the Nubian lion but to live,
To rage its hour, and perish; but on man
He lavish'd immortality, and Heaven.
The eagle falls from her ærial tower,
And mingles with irrevocable dust:
But man from death springs joyful —
Springs up to life and to eternity.
Oh that, insensate of the favouring boon —
The great exclusive privilege bestow'd

On us unworthy trifles — men should dare
To treat with slight regard the proffer'd Heaven,
And urge the lenient, but All-Just, to swear
In wrath, " They shall not enter in my rest."
Might I address the supplicative strain
To thy high foot-stool, I would pray that thou
Would'st pity the deluded wanderers,
And fold them, ere they perish, in thy flock.
Yea, I would bid thee pity them through Him,
Thy well-beloved, who, upon the cross,
Bled a dead sacrifice for human sin,
And paid, with bitter agony, the debt
Of primitive transgression.

Oh! I shrink,
My very soul doth shrink, when I reflect
That the time hastens, when, in vengeance clothed,
Thou shalt come down to stamp the seal of fate
On erring mortal man. Thy chariot wheels
Then shall rebound to earth's remotest caves,
And stormy ocean from his bed shall start
At the appalling summons. Oh! how dread,
On the dark eye of miserable man,
Chasing his sins in secrecy and gloom,
Will burst the effulgence of the opening Heaven;
When to the brazen trumpet's deafening roar
Thou and thy dazzling cohorts shall descend,
Proclaiming the fulfilment of the word!
The dead shall start astonish'd from their sleep;
The sepulchres shall groan and yield their prey;
The bellowing floods shall disembody their charge
Of human victims — From the farthest nook
Of the wide world shall troop their risen souls —
From him whose bones are bleaching in the waste
Of polar solitudes, or him whose corpse,
Whelm'd in the loud Atlantic's vexed tides,
Is wash'd on some Caribbean prominence,
To the lone tenant of some secret cell
In the Pacific's vast * * * realm,
Where never plummet's sound was heard to part
The wilderness of water; they shall come
To greet the solemn advent of the Judge.
Thou first shalt summon the elected saints

To their apportion'd Heaven ! and thy Son,
 At thy right hand, shall smile with conscious joy
 On all his past distresses, when for them
 He bore humanity's severest pangs.
 Then shalt thou seize the avenging scimitar,
 And, with a roar as loud and horrible
 As the stern earthquake's monitory voice,
 The wicked shall be driven to their abode,
 Down the immitigable gulf, to wail
 And gnash their teeth in endless agony :

* * * * *

Rear thou aloft thy standard. — Spirit, rear
 Thy flag on high ! — Invincible, and throned
 In unparticipated might. Behold
 Earth's proudest boasts, beneath thy silent sway,
 Sweep headlong to destruction ; thou the while,
 Unmoved and heedless, thou dost hear the rush
 Of mighty generations, as they pass
 To the broad gulf of ruin, and dost stamp
 Thy signet on them, and they rise no more.
 Who shall contend with Time — unvanquish'd
 Time,
 The conqueror of conquerors, and lord
 Of desolation ? — Lo ! the shadows fly,
 The hours and days, and years and centuries,
 They fly, they fly, and nations rise and fall :
 The young are old, the old are in their graves.
 Heard'st thou that shout ? It rent the vaulted skies ;
 It was the voice of people, — mighty crowds. —
 Again ! 'tis hush'd ; — Time speaks, and all is hush'd ;
 In the vast multitude now reigns alone
 Unruffled solitude. They all are still ;
 All — yea, the whole — the incalculable mass,
 Still as the ground that clasps their cold remains.

Rear thou aloft thy standard ! — Spirit, rear
 Thy flag on high ! and glory in thy strength.
 But dost thou know the season yet shall come,
 When from its base thine adamant throne
 Shall tumble : when thine arm shall cease to strike,
 Thy voice forget its petrifying power ;

When saints shall shout, and *Time shall be no more*.
 Yea, he doth come — the mighty champion comes,
 Whose potent spear shall give thee thy death-wound,
 Shall crush the conqueror of conquerors,
 And desolate stern Desolation's lord.

Lo! where he cometh! the Messiah comes!
 The King! the Comforter! the Christ! — He comes
 To burst the bonds of death, and overturn
 The power of Time. — Hark! the trumpet's blast
 Rings o'er the heavens — They rise, the myriads
 rise —

Even from their graves they spring, and burst the
 chains

Of torpor — He has ransom'd them, * * *

Forgotten generations live again,
 Assume the bodily shapes they own'd of old,
 Beyond the flood: — the righteous of their times
 Embrace and weep — they weep the tears of joy.
 The sainted mother wakes, and in her lap
 Clasp her dear babe, the partner of her grave,
 And heritor with her of Heaven, — a flower
 Wash'd by the blood of Jesus from the stain
 Of native guilt, even in its early bud.

And hark! those strains, how solemnly serene
 They fall, as from the skies — at distance fall —
 Again more loud — the hallelujah's swell:
 The newly-risen catch the joyful sound;
 They glow, they burn; and now with one accord
 Bursts forth sublime from every mouth the song
 Of praise to God on high, and to the Lamb
 Who bled for mortals.

* * * * *

Yet there is peace for man. — Yea, there is peace
 Even in this noisy, this unsettled scene;
 When, from the crowd and from the city far,
 Haply he may be set (in his late walk
 Overtaken with deep thought) beneath the boughs
 Of honeysuckle, when the sun is gone,
 And with fixt eye, and wistful, he surveys
 The solemn shadows of the Heavens sail;

And thinks the season yet shall come, when Time
 Will waft him to repose, to deep repose,
 Far from the unquietness of life — from noise
 And tumult far — beyond the flying clouds,
 Beyond the stars, and all this passing scene,
 Where change shall cease, and time shall be no
 more.

* * * *



THE CHRISTIAD,

A DIVINE POEM.

This was the work which Henry had most at heart. His riper judgment would probably have perceived that the subject was ill chosen. What is said so well in the *Centura Literaria* of all Scriptural subjects, for narrative poetry, applies peculiarly to this. "Any thing taken from it, leaves the story imperfect; any thing added to it, disgusts and almost shocks us as impious. As Omar said of the Alexandrian Library, we may say of such writings; if they contain only what is in the Scriptures, they are superfluous; if what is not in them, they are false." — It may be added, that the mixture of mythology makes truth itself appear fabulous.

There is great power in the execution of this fragment. — In editing these remains, I have, with that decorum which it is to be wished all editors would observe, abstained from informing the reader what he is to admire and what he is not, but I cannot refrain from saying that the two last stanzas greatly affected me, when I discovered them written on the leaf of a different book, and apparently long after the first canto; and greatly shall I be mistaken if they do not affect the reader also.

BOOK I.

I.

I sing the Cross! — Ye white-robed angel choirs
 Who know the chords of harmony to sweep,
 Ye who o'er holy David's varying wires
 Were wont of old your hovering watch to keep,
 Oh, now descend! and with your harpings deep,
 Pouring sublime the full symphonious stream
 Of music, such as soothes the saint's last sleep,

*Awake my slumbering spirit from its dream,
And teach me how to exalt the high mysterious
theme.*

II.

Mourn ! Salem, mourn ! low lies thine humbled
state,
Thy glittering fane is levell'd with the ground !
Fallen is thy pride ! — Thine halls are desolate !
Where erst was heard the timbrel's sprightly
sound,
And frolic pleasures tripp'd the nightly round,
There breeds the wild fox lonely, — and aghast
Stands the mute pilgrim at the void profound,
Unbroke by noise, save when the hurrying blast
Sighs, like a spirit, deep along the cheerless waste.

III.

It is for this, proud Solyma ! thy towers
Lie crumbling in the dust ; for this forlorn
Thy genius walls along thy desert bowers,
While stern Destruction laughs, as if in scorn,
That thou didst dare insult God's eldest born :
And, with most bitter persecuting ire,
Pursued his footsteps till the last day-dawn
Rose on his fortunes — and thou saw'st the fire
That came to light the world, in one great flash
expire.

IV.

Oh ! for a pencil dipt in living light,
To paint the agonies that Jesus bore !
Oh ! for the long-lost harp of Jesse's might,
To hymn the Saviour's praise from shore to
shore,
While seraph hosts the lofty psalm pour,
And Heaven enraptured lists the loud acclaim !
May a frail mortal dare the theme explore ?
May he to human ear his weak song frame ?
Oh ! may he dare to sing Messiah's glorious name ?

V.

Spirits of pity ! mild crusaders, come !

Buoyant on clouds around your minstrel float,
And give him eloquence who else were dumb,

And raise to feeling and to fire his note !

And thou, Urania ! who dost still devote
Thy nights and days to God's eternal shrine,

Whose mild eyes lumined what Isaiah wrote,

Throw o'er thy Bard that solemn stole of thine,

And clothe him for the fight with energy divine.

VI.

When from the temple's lofty summit prone,

Satan o'ercome, fell down ; and 'throned there,

The son of God confest, in splendour shone ;

Swift as the glancing sunbeam cuts the air,

Mad with defeat, and yelling his despair,

* * * *

Fled the stern king of Hell — and with the
Of gliding meteors, ominous and red,

Shot athwart the clouds that gather'd round his head.

VII.

Right o'er the Euxine, and that gulf which late

The rude Massagete adored, he bent

His northering course, while round, in dusky sta

The assembling fiends their summon'd troop
augment,

Clothed in dark mists, upon their way they wer

While, as they pass'd to regions more severe,

The Lapland sorcerer swell'd with loud lame

The solitary gale, and, fill'd with fear,

The howling dogs bespoke unholy spirits near.

VIII.

Where the North Pole, in moody solitude,

, Spreads her huge tracks and frozen w
around,

There ice-rocks piled aloft, in order rude,

Form a gigantic hall, where never sound

Startled dull Silence' ear, save when profour

The smook-frost mutter'd : there drear Cold for
 eye
 Thrones him, — and fix'd on his primeval
 mound,
 Ruin, the giant, sits ; while stern Dismay
 Stalks like some woo-struck man along the desert
 way.

IX.

In that drear spot, grim Devolation's lair,
 No sweet remain of life encheers the sight ;
 The dancing heart's blood in an instant there
 Would freeze to marble. — Mingling day and
 night
 (Sweet interchange, which makes our labours
 light)
 re there unknown ; while in the summer skies
 The sun rolls ceaseless round his heavenly height,
 or ever sets till from the scene he flies,
 and leaves the long bleak night of half the year to
 rise.

X.

'Twas there, yet shuddering from the burning lake,
 Satan had fix'd their next consistory,
 When parting last he fondly hoped to shake
 Messiah's constancy, — and thus to free
 The powers of darkness from the dread decree
 Of bondage brought by him, and circumvent
 The unerring ways of Him whose eye can see
 The womb of Time, and, in its embryo pent,
 Discern the colours clear of every dark event.

XI.

Here the stern monarch stay'd his rapid flight,
 And his thick hosts, as with a jetty pall,
 Hovering, obscured the north star's peaceful light,
 Waiting on wing their haughty chieftain's call.
 He, meanwhile, downward, with a sullen fall,
 Dropt on the echoing ice. Instant the sound
 Of their broad vans was hush'd, and o'er the hall,

Vast and obscure, the gloomy cohorts bound,
Till, wedged in ranks, the seat of Satan they surround.

XII.

High on a solium of the solid wave,
Prankt with rude shapes by the fantastic frost,
He stood in silence; — now keen thoughts engrave
Dark figures on his front; and, tempest-tost,
He fears to say that every hope is lost.
Meanwhile the multitude as death are mute:
So, ere the tempest on Malacca's coast,
Sweet Quiet, gently touching her soft lute,
Sings to the whispering waves the prelude to dispute.

XIII.

At length collected, o'er the dark Divan
The arch-fiend glanced, as by the Boreal blaze
Their downcast brows were seen, and thus began
His fierce harangue: — "Spirits! our better
days
"Are now elapsed; Moloch and Belial's praise
"Shall sound no more in groves by myriads trod.
"Lo! the light breaks! — The astonish'd nations
gaze!
"For us is lifted high the avenging rod!
"For, spirits, this is He, — this is the Son of God!"

XIV.

What then! — shall Satan's spirit crouch to fear?
Shall he who shook the pillars of God's reign
Drop from his unnerved arm the hostile spear?
Madness! The very thought would make me
fain
To tear the spangles from yon gaudy plain,
And hurl them at their maker! — Fix'd as fate
I am his Foe! — Yea, though his pride should
deign
To soothe mine ire with half his regal state,
Still would I burn with fixt, unalterable hate.

XV.

Now hear the issue of my curst emprise,
 When from our last sad synod I took flight,
 Buoy'd with false hopes, in some deep-laid disguise,
 To tempt this vaunted Holy One to write
 His own self-condemnation; in the plight
 Of aged man in the lone wilderness,
 Gathering a few stray sticks, I met his sight,
 And, leaning on my staff, seem'd much to guess
 What cause could mortal bring to that forlorn recess.

XVI.

Then thus in homely guise I featly framed
 My lowly speech: — " Good Sir, what leads this
 way
 " Your wandering steps? Must hapless chance be
 blamed
 " That you so far from haunt of mortals stray?
 " Here have I dwelt for many a lingering day,
 " Nor trace of man have seen; but how! me-
 thought
 " Thou wert the youth on whom God's holy ray
 " I saw descend in Jordan, when John taught
 " That he to fallen man the saving promise brought."

XVII.

" I am that man," said Jesus; " I am He!
 " But truce to questions — Canst thou point my
 feet
 " To some low hut, if haply such there be
 " In this wild labyrinth, where I may meet
 " With homely greeting, and may sit and eat;
 " For forty days I have tarried fasting here,
 " Hid in the dark glens of this lone retreat,
 " And now I hunger; and my fainting ear
 " Longs much to greet the sound of fountains
 gushing near."

XVIII.

Then thus I answer'd wily: — " If, indeed,
 " Son of our God thou be'st, what need to seek

" For food from men? — Lo ! on these flint-stones
feed,

" Bid them be bread ! Open thy lips and speak,

" And living rills from yon parch'd rock will
break."

Instant as I had spoke, his piercing eye

Fix'd on my face ; — the blood forsook my cheek,

I could not bear his gaze ! my mask slipp'd by ;

I would have shunn'd his look, but had not power
to fly.

XIX.

Then he rebuked me with the holy word —

Accursed sounds ! but now my native pride

Return'd, and by no foolish qualm deterr'd,

I bore him from the mountain's woody side,

Up to the summit, where, extending wide,

Kingdoms and cities, palaces and fanes,

Bright sparkling in the sunbeams were descried ;

And in gay dance, amid luxuriant plains,

Tripp'd to the jocund reed the emasculated swains.

XX.

" Behold," I cried, " these glories ! scenes divine !

" Thou whose sad prime in pining want decays ;

" And these, O rapture ! these shall all be thine,

" If thou wilt give to me, not God, the praise.

" Hath he not given to indigence thy days ?

" Is not thy portion peril here and pain ?

" Oh ! leave his temples, shun his wounding
ways !

" Seize the tiara ! these mean weeds disdain,

" Kneel, kneel, thou man of woe, and peace and
splendour gain."

XXI.

" Is it not written," sternly he replied,

" Tempt not the Lord thy God ?" Frowning he
spake,

And instant sounds, as of the ocean tide,

Rose, and the whirlwind from its prison brake,

And caught me up aloft, till in one flake,

The sidelong volley met my swift career,
 And smote me earthward.—Jove himself might
 quake

At such a fall : my sinews crack'd, and near,
 Obscure and dizzy sounds seem'd ringing in mine
 ear.

XXII.

Senseless and stunn'd I lay : till, casting round
 My half unconscious gaze, I saw the foe
 Borne on a car of roses to the ground,
 By volant angels ; and as sailing slow
 He sunk, the hoary battlement below,
 While on the tall spire slept the slant sun-beam,
 Sweet on the enamour'd zephyr was the flow
 Of heavenly instruments. Such strains oft seem,
 On star-light hill, to soothe the Syrian shepherd's
 dream.

XXIII.

I saw blaspheming. Hate renew'd my strength ;
 I smote the ether with my iron wing,
 And left the accursed scene. — Arrived at length
 In these drear halls, to ye, my peers ! I bring
 The tidings of defeat. Hell's haughty king
 Thrice vanquish'd, baffled, smitten and dismay'd !
 O shame ! Is this the hero who could fling
 Defiance at his Maker, while array'd,
 High o'er the walls of light rebellion's banners play'd ?

XXIV.

Yet shall not Heaven's bland minions triumph
 long ;
 Hell yet shall have revenge. — O glorious sight,
 Prophetic visions on my fancy throng,
 I see wild Agony's lean finger write
 Sad figures on his forehead ! — Keenly bright
 Revenge's flambeau burns ! Now in his eyes
 Stand the hot tears, — unmanly in the night,
 Lo ! he retires to mourn ! — I hear his cries !
 He faints — he falls — and, lo ! — 'tis true, ye powers,
 he dies.

XXV.

Thus spake the chieftain, — and as if he view'd
 The scene he pictured, with his foot advanced,
 And chest inflated, motionless he stood,
 While under his uplifted shield he glanced
 With straining eye-ball fix'd, like one entranced,
 On viewless air ; — thither the dark-platoon
 Gazed wondering, nothing seen, save when there
 danced

The northern flash, or fiend late fled from noon,
 Darken'd the disk of the descending moon.

XXVI.

Silence crept stilly through the ranks.—The breeze
 Spake most distinctly. As the sailor stands,
 When all the midnight gasping from the seas
 Break boiling sobs, and to his sight expands
 High on the shrouds the spirit that commands
 The ocean-farer's life ; so stiff—so scar
 Stood each dark power ; — while through their
 numerous bands

Beat not one heart, and mingling hope and fear
 Now told them all was lost, now bade revenge ap-
 pear.

XXVII.

One there was there, whose loud defying tongue
 Nor hope nor fear had silenced, but the swell
 Of over-boiling malice. Utterance long
 His passion mock'd, and long he strove to tell
 His labouring ire ; still syllable none fell
 From his pale quivering lip, but died away
 For very fury ; from each hollow cell
 Half sprang his eyes, that cast a flaming ray,

And * * * * *

XXVIII.

" This comes," at length burst from the furious
 chief,

" This comes of distant counsels ! Here behold

" The fruits of wily cunning ! the relief

" Which coward policy would fain unfold,

"To soothe the powers that warr'd with Heaven of old!

"O wise! O potent! O sagacious snare!

"And, lo! our prince—the mighty and the bold,

"There stands he, spell-struck, gaping at the air,

"While Heaven subverts his reign, and plants her standard there."

XXIX.

Here, as recover'd, Satan fix'd his eye

Full on the speaker; dark it was and stern;

He wrapt his black vest round him gloomily,

And stood like one whom weightiest thoughts concern.

Him Moloch mark'd, and strove again to turn His soul to rage. "Behold, behold," he cried,

"The lord of Hell, who bade these legions spurn

"Almighty rule—behold he lays aside

"The spear of just revenge, and shrinks, by man defied."

XXX.

Thus ended Moloch, and his [burning] tongue

Hung quivering, as if [mad] to quench its heat

In slaughter. So, his native wilds among,

The famish'd tiger pants, when, near his seat,

Press'd on the sands, he marks the traveller's feet.

Instant low murmurs rose, and many a sword

Had from its scabbard sprung; but toward the seat

Of the arch-fiend all turn'd with one accord,

As loud he thus harangued the sanguinary horde.

* * * *

Ye powers of Hell, I am no coward. I proved this of old. Who led your forces against the armies of Jehovah? Who coped with Ithuriel and the thunders of the Almighty? Who, when stunned and confused ye lay on the burning lake, who first awoke and collected your scattered powers? Lastly,

who led you across the unfathomable abyss to this delightful world, and established that reign here which now totters to its base? How, therefore, dares yon treacherous fiend to cast a stain on Satan's bravery? he who preys only on the defenceless — who sucks the blood of infants, and delights only in acts of ignoble cruelty and unequal contention. Away with the boaster who never joins in action; but like a cormorant, hovers over the field, to feed upon the wounded, and overwhelm the dying. True bravery is as remote from rashness as from hesitation; let us counsel coolly, but let us execute our counselled purposes determinately. In power we have learnt, by that experiment which lost us Heaven, that we are inferior to the Thunder-bearer: In subtlety — in subtlety alone we are his equals. Open war is impossible.

* * * *

Thus we shall pierce our conqueror, through the
race

Which as himself he loves; thus, if we fall,
We fall not with the anguish, the disgrace,
Of falling unrevenged. The stirring call
Of vengeance rings within me! Warriors all,
The word is vengeance, and the spur despair.

Away the coward wiles! — Death's coal-black
pall

Be now our standard! — Be our torch the glare
of cities fired! our fives, the shrieks that fill the air!

Him answering rose Mecashpim, who of old,
Far in the silence of Chaldea's groves,
Was worshipp'd, God of Fire, with charms untold
And mystery. His wandering spirit roves,
Now vainly searching for the flame it loves,
And sits and mourns like some white-robed sire,
Where stood his temple, and where fragrant
cloves

And cinnamon unheap'd the sacred pyre,
And nightly magi watch'd the everlasting fire.

He waved his robe of flame, he cross'd his breast,
 And sighing — his papyrus scarf survey'd,
 Woven with dark characters; then thus address'd
 The troubled council : —

I.

Thus far have I pursued my solemn theme
 With self-rewarding toil, thus far have sung
 Of god-like deeds, far loftier than beseem
 The lyre which I in earlier days have strung;
 And now my spirits faint, and I have hung
 The shell, that solaced me in saddest hour,
 On the dark cypress! and the strings which rung
 With Jesus' praise, their harping, now are o'er,
 Or, when the breeze comes by, moan, and are heard
no more.

And must the harp of Judah sleep again?
 Shall I no more re-animate the lay?
 Oh! thou who visitest the sons of men,
 Thou who dost listen when the humble pray,
 One little space prolong my mournful day!
 One little lapse suspend thy last decree!
 I am a youthful traveller in the way,
 And this slight boon would consecrate to thee,
 Ere I with Death shake hands, and smile that I am
free.

* * * *

PROSE COMPOSITIONS.

REMARKS ON THE ENGLISH POETS.

IMITATIONS.

THE sublimity and unaffected beauty of the sacred writings are in no instance more conspicuous, than in the following verses of the xviiith Psalm :

“ He bowed the heavens also, and came down ;
and darkness was under his feet.

“ And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly : yea,
he did fly upon the wings of the wind.”

None of our better versions have been able to preserve the original graces of these verses. That wretched one of Thomas Sternhold, however, (which to the disgrace and manifest detriment of religious worship, is generally used,) has in this solitary instance, and then perhaps by accident, given us the true spirit of the Psalmist, and has surpassed not only Merrick, but even the classic Buchanan.* This version is as follows : —

* That the reader may judge for himself, Buchanan's translation is subjoined.

Uique suum dominum terras demittat in orbem
Leniter inclinat jussu fastigia cœlum ;
Succedant pedibus fascæ caligæ umbrae ;
Ille vehens corra volueri, cui illicet astra.

- " The Lord descended from above,
 " And bow'd the heavens high,
 " And underneath his feet he cast
 " The darkness of the sky.

 " On cherubs and on cherubims
 " Full royally he rode,
 " And on the wings of mighty winds
 " Came flying all abroad."

Dryden honoured these verses with very high commendation; and, in the following lines of his *Annus Mirabilis*, has apparently imitated them, in preference to the original.

- " The duke less numerous, but in courage more,
 " On wings of all the winds to combat flies."

And in his *Ceyx and Alcyone*, from *Ovid*, he has—

- " And now sublime she rides upon the wind,"

which is probably imitated, as well as most of the following, not from *Sternhold*, but the original. Thus *Pope*,

- " Not God alone in the still calm we find,
 " He mounts the storm, and rides upon the wind."

And *Addison* —

- " Rides in the whirlwind and directs the storm."]

The unfortunate *Chatterton* has —

- " And rides upon the pinions of the wind."

And *Gray* —

- " With arms sublime that float upon the air."

*Lora tenens levibus ventorum adremicat alis
 Se circum fulvo nebularum involvit amictu,
 Præterdatque cavis piceas in nubibus undas.*

This is somewhat too harsh and pretale, and there is an unpleasant cacophony in the terminations of the 5th and 6th lines.

Few poets of eminence have less incurred the charge of plagiarism than Milton; yet many instances might be adduced of similarity of idea and language with the Scripture, which are certainly more than coincidences, and some of these I shall, in a future number, present to your readers. Thus the present passage in the Psalmist was in all probability in his mind when he wrote —

——— “ And with mighty wings outspread,
 “ Dove-like sat’st brooding on the vast abyss.”
Par. Lost, l. 20. b. 1.

The third verse of the sixth Psalm —

“ He maketh the clouds his chariot, and walketh upon the wings of the wind,”

is evidently taken from the before-mentioned verses in the xviiiith Psalm, on which it is perhaps an improvement. It has also been imitated by two of our first poets, — Shakspear and Thomson. The former in *Romeo and Juliet* —

“ Bestrides the lazy-paced clouds,
 “ And sails upon the bosom of the air.”

The latter in *Winter*, l. 199.

——— “ Till Nature’s King, who oft
 “ Amid tempestuous darkness dwells alone,
 “ And on the wings of the careering winds
 “ Walks dreadfully serene.”

As these imitations have not before, I believe, been noticed, they cannot fail to interest the lovers of polite letters; and they are such as at least will amuse your readers in general. If the sacred writings were attentively perused, we should find innumerable passages from which our best modern poets have drawn their most admired ideas; and the enumerations of these instances would perhaps attract the attention of many persons to those vo-

lumes, which they now perhaps think to contain every thing tedious and disgusting, but which, on the contrary, they would find replete with interest, beauty, and true sublimity.

STERNHOLD AND HOPKINS.

MR. EDITOR,

IN your Mirror for July, a Mr. William Toone has offered a few observations on a paper of mine, in a preceding number, containing remarks on the versions and imitations of the 9th and 10th verses of the xviiith Psalm, to which I think it necessary to offer a few words by way of reply ; as they not only put an erroneous construction on certain passages of that paper, but are otherwise open to material objection.

The object of Mr. Toone, in some parts of his observations, appears to have been to refute something which he *fancied* I had advanced, tending to establish the general merit of Sternhold and Hopkins's translation of the Psalms : but he might have saved himself this unnecessary trouble, as I have decidedly condemned it as mere doggrel, still preserved in our churches, to the detriment of religion ; and the version of the passage in question is adduced as a brilliant, though probably accidental, exception to the general character of the work. What necessity, therefore, your correspondent could see for "*hoping that I should think with him, that the sooner the old version of the Psalms was consigned to oblivion, the better it would be for rational devotion,*" I am perfectly at a loss to imagine.

This concluding sentence of Mr. Toone's paper, which I consider as introduced merely by way of rounding the period, and making a graceful exit, needs no further animadversion. I shall therefore proceed to examine the objections of the "worthy

clergyman of the church of England" to these verses, cited by your correspondent, by which he hopes to prove, that Dryden, Knox, and the numerous other eminent men who have expressed their admiration thereof, to be little better than idiots. — The first is this : —

" *Cherubim* is the plural for *Cherub* ; but our versioner, by adding an *s* to it, has rendered them both plurals." By adding an *s* to what ? If the pronoun *it* refer to cherubim, as according to the construction of the sentence it really does, the whole objection is nonsense. — But the worthy gentleman no doubt *meant* to say, that Sternhold had rendered them both plurals by the addition of an *s* to *cherub*. Even in this sense, however, I conceive the charge to be easily obviated ; for, though cherubim is doubtless usually considered as the plural of cherub, yet the two words are frequently so used in the Old Testament as to prove, that they were often applied to separate ranks of beings. One of these which I shall cite, will dispel all doubt on the subject.

" And within the oracle he made *two cherubims* of olive tree, *each* ten cubits high."

1 *Kings*, v. 23. chap. vii.

The other objection turns upon a word with which it is not necessary for me to interfere ; for I did not quote these verses as instances of the merit of Sternhold, or his version, I only asserted that the lines which I then copied, viz.

" The Lord descended from above," &c.

were truly noble and sublime. Whether, therefore, Sternhold wrote *all the winds* (as asserted by your correspondent, in order to furnish room for objection), or *mighty winds*, is of no import. But if this really be a subsequent alteration, I think at least there is no improvement ; for when we conceive the winds as assembling from all quarters, at the omnipotent command of the Deity, and bearing

him with their united forces from the heavens, we have a more sublime image than when we see him as flying merely on *mighty winds*, or as driving his team (or troop) of angels on a *strong tempest's rapid wing*, with *most amazing swiftness*, as elegantly represented by *Brady and Tate*.*

I differ from your correspondent's opinion, that these verses, so far from possessing sublimity, attract the reader merely by their *rumbling sound*: and here it may not be amiss to observe, that the true sublime does not consist of high sounding words, or pompous magnificence; on the contrary, it most frequently appears clad in native dignity and simplicity, without art, and without ornament.

The most elegant critic of antiquity, Longinus, in his Treatise on the Sublime, adduces the following passage from the Book of Genesis, as possessing that quality in an eminent degree:—

"God said, Let there be light, and there was light:—Let the earth be, and earth was."†

From what I have advanced on this subject, I would not have it inferred, that I conceive the version of Sternhold and Hopkins, generally speaking, to be superior to that of Brady and Tate; for, on the contrary, in almost every instance, except that above mentioned, the latter possesses an indubitable right to pre-eminence. Our language, however, cannot yet boast one version possessing the true

* How any man, enjoying the use of his senses, could prefer the contemptible version of Brady and Tate of this verse to Sternhold's is to me inexplicable. The epithets which are introduced would have disgraced a school-boy, and the majestic imagery of the original is sacrificed to make room for tinsel and fastian.

The chariot of the King of kings,
Which entire troops of angels draw,
On a strong tempest's rapid wings,
With most amazing swiftness flew.

† The critic apparently quoted from memory, for we may search in vain for the latter part of this sentence.

spirit of the original ; some are beneath contempt, and the best has scarcely attained mediocrity. Your correspondent has quoted some verses from Tate, in triumph, as comparatively excellent ; but, in my opinion, these are also instances of our general failure in sacred poetry : they abound in those *ambitiosa ornamenta* which do well to please women and children, but which disgust the man of taste.

To the imitations already noticed of this passage, permit me to add the following —

“ But various Iris, Jove’s commands to bear,
 “ Speeds on the wings of winds through liquid air.”
Pope’s Iliad, b. 2.

“ Miguel cruzando os pelagos do vento.”
Carlos Reduzido, Canto I., by Pedro de Azevedo Tojal, an ancient Portuguese poet of some merit.

REMARKS ON THE ENGLISH POETS.

WARTON.

THE poems of Thomas Warton are replete with a sublimity and richness of imagery, which seldom fail to enchant : every line presents new beauties of idea, aided by all the magic of animated diction. From the inexhaustible stores of figurative language, majesty, and sublimity, which the ancient English poets afford, he has culled some of the richest and the sweetest flowers. But, unfortunately, in thus making use of the beauties of other writers, he has been too unsparing ; for the greater number of his ideas and nervous epithets cannot, strictly speaking, be called his own. Therefore, however we may be

charmed by the grandeur of his images, or the felicity of his expression, we must still bear in our recollection, that we cannot with justice bestow upon him the highest eulogium of genius—that of originality.

It has, with much justice, been observed, that Pope, and his imitators, have introduced a species of refinement into our language, which has banished that nerve and pathos for which Milton had rendered it eminent. Harmonious modulations, and unvarying exactness of measure, totally precluding sublimity and fire, have reduced our fashionable poetry to mere sing-song. But Thomas Warton, whose taste was unvitiated by the frivolities of the day, immediately saw the intrinsic worth of what the world then slighted. He saw that the ancient poets contained a fund of strength, and beauty of imagery, as well as diction, which, in the hands of genius, would shine forth with redoubled lustre. Entirely rejecting, therefore, modern niceties, he extracted the honied sweets from these beautiful, though neglected flowers. Every grace of sentiment, every poetical term, which a false taste had rendered obsolete, was by him revived and made to grace his own ideas; and though many will condemn him as guilty of plagiarism, yet few will be able to withhold the tribute of their praise.

The peculiar forte of Warton seems to have been in the sombre descriptive. The wild airy flights of a Spenser, the "chivalrous feats of barons bold," or the "cloister'd solitude," were the favourites of his mind. Of this his bent he informs us in the following lines:—

Through Pope's soft song though all the graces
breathe,
And happiest art adorns his Attic page,
Yet does my mind with sweeter transport glow,
As at the foot of mossy trunk reclined,
In magic Spenser's wildly warbled song,
I see deserted Una wander wide
Through wasteful solitudes and lurid heaths,

Weary, forlorn, — than where the fated fair *
 Upon the bosom bright of silver Thames,
 Launches in all the lustre of brocade,
 Amid the splendours of the laughing sun ;
 The *gay description* palls upon the sense,
 And coldly strikes the mind with feeble bliss.

Pleasures of Melancholy.

Warton's mind was formed for the grand and the sublime. Were his imitations less verbal, and less numerous, I should be led to imagine that the peculiar beauties of his favourite authors had sunk so impressively into his mind, that he had unwittingly appropriated them as his own ; but they are in general such as to preclude the idea.

To the metrical and other intrinsic ornaments of style, he appears to have paid due attention. If we meet with an uncouth expression, we immediately perceive that it is peculiarly appropriate, and that no other term could have been made use of with so happy an effect. His poems abound with alliterative lines. Indeed, this figure seems to have been his favourite ; and he studiously seeks every opportunity to introduce it : however, it must be acknowledged, that his " daisy-dappled dales," &c. occur too frequently.

The poem on which Warton's fame (as a poet) principally rests, is, the " Pleasures of Melancholy." and (notwithstanding the perpetual recurrence of ideas which are borrowed from other poets) there are few pieces which I have perused with more exquisite gratification. The gloomy tints with which he overcasts his descriptions ; his highly figurative language ; and, above all, the antique air which the poem wears ; convey the most sublime ideas to the mind.

Of the other pieces of this poet, some are excellent, and they all rise above mediocrity. In his sonnets, he has succeeded wonderfully ; that written at Winslade, and the one to the river Lodon, are

* Belinda. Vide Pope's Rape of the Lock.

peculiarly beautiful, and that to Mr. Gray is most elegantly turned. The "Ode on the Approach of Summer" is replete with genius and poetic fire; and even over the Birth-day Odes, which he wrote as poet laureat, his genius has cast energy and beauty. His humorous pieces and satires abound in wit; and, in short, taking him altogether, he is an ornament to our country and our language, and it is to be regretted, that the profusion with which he has made use of the beauties of other poets, should have given room for censure.

I should have closed my short, and, I fear, jejune essay on Warton, but that I wished to hint to your truly elegant and acute Stamford correspondent, Octavius Gilchrist, (whose future remarks on Warton's imitations I await with considerable impatience,) that the passage in the Pleasures of Melancholy —

or ghostly shape
*At distance seen, invites, with beck'ning hand,
 Thy lonesome steps,*

which he supposes to be taken from the following in Comus —

Of calling shapes, and beck'ning shadows dire,
 And airy tongues that syllable men's names,

is more probably taken from the commencement of Pope's Elegy on an unfortunate Lady —

What beck'ning ghost along the moonlight shade
Invites my steps, and points to yonder glade?

The original idea was possibly taken from Comus by Pope, from whom Warton, to all appearance, again borrowed it.

Were the similarity of the passage in Gray to that in Warton less striking and verbal, I should be inclined to think it only a remarkable coincidence; for Gray's biographers inform us, that he commenced

his elegy in 1742, and that it was completed in 1744, being the year which he particularly devoted to the muses, though he did not "*put the finishing stroke to it*" until 1750. The Pleasures of Melancholy were published in 4to. in 1747; therefore Gray *might* take his third stanza from Warton; but it is rather extraordinary that the *third stanza* of a poem should be taken from another, published *five* years after that poem was begun, and *three* after it was understood to be completed. One circumstance, however, seems to render the supposition of its being a plagiarism somewhat more probable, which is, that the stanza in question is not essential to the connection of the preceding and antecedent verses; therefore it might have been added by Gray, when he put the "*finishing stroke*" to his piece in 1750.

CURSORY REMARKS ON TRAGEDY.

THE pleasure which is derived from the representation of an affecting tragedy has often been the subject of enquiry among philosophical critics, as a singular phenomenon. — That the mind should receive gratification from the excitement of those passions which are in themselves painful, is really an extraordinary paradox; and is the more inexplicable, since, when the same means are employed to rouse the more pleasing affections, no adequate effect is produced.

In order to solve this problem, many ingenious hypotheses have been invented. The Abbé Du Bos tells us, that the mind has such a natural antipathy to a state of listlessness and languor, as to render the transition from it to a state of exertion, even though by rousing passions in themselves painful, as in the instance of tragedy, a positive pleasure. Monsieur Fontenelle has given us a more satisfactory account. He tells us that pleasure and pain, two sentiments so different in themselves, do not differ so much in

their cause:—that pleasure, carried too far, becomes pain; and pain, a little moderated, becomes pleasure. Hence, that the pleasure we derive from tragedy is a pleasing sorrow, a modulated pain. David Hume, who has also written upon this subject, unites the two systems with this addition, that the painful emotions excited by the representation of melancholy scenes, are further tempered, and the pleasure is proportionably heightened, by the eloquence displayed in the relation—the art shown in collecting the pathetic circumstances, and the judgment evinced in their happy disposition.

But even now I do not conceive the difficulty to be satisfactorily done away. Admitting the postulatam which the Abbé Du Bos assumes, that languor is so disagreeable to the mind, as to render its removal positive pleasure, to be true; yet, when we recollect, as Mr. Hume has before observed, that were the same objects of distress, which give us pleasure in tragedy, set before our eyes in reality, though they would effectually remove listlessness, they would excite the most unfeigned uneasiness, we shall hesitate in applying this solution in its full extent to the present subject. M. Fontenelle's reasoning is much more conclusive; yet I think he errs egregiously in his premises, if he means to imply that any modulation of pain is pleasing, because, in whatever degree it may be, it is still pain, and remote from either ease or positive pleasure; and if, by moderated pain, he means any uneasy sensation abated, though not totally banished, he is no less mistaken in the application of them to the subject before us.—Pleasure may very well be conceived to be painful, when carried to excess, because it there becomes exertion, and is inconvenient. We may also form some idea of a pleasure arising from moderated pain, or the transition from the disagreeable to the less disagreeable; but this cannot in any wise be applied to the gratification we derive from a tragedy, for there no superior degree of pain is left for an inferior. As to Mr. Hume's addition of the pleasure we derive from the art of the poet, for the

introduction of which he has written his whole dissertation on tragedy, it merits little consideration. The self-recollection necessary to render this art a source of gratification must weaken the illusion; and whatever weakens the illusion diminishes the effect.

In these systems, it is taken for granted that all those passions are excited which are represented in the drama. This I conceive to have been the primary cause of error; for to me it seems very probable that the only passion or affection which is excited is that of sympathy, which partakes of the pleasing nature of pity and compassion, and includes in it so much as is pleasing of hope and apprehension, joy and grief.

The pleasure we derive from the afflictions of a friend is proverbial—every person has felt, and wondered why he felt, something soothing in the participation of the sorrows of those dear to his heart; and he might with as much reason have questioned why he was delighted with the melancholy scenes of tragedy. Both pleasures are equally singular; they both arise from the same source. Both originate in sympathy.

It would seem natural that an accidental spectator of a cause in a court of justice, with which he is perfectly unacquainted, would remain an uninterested auditor of what was going forward. Experience tells us, however, the exact contrary. He immediately, even before he is well acquainted with the merits of the case, espouses one side of the question; to which he uniformly adheres, participates in all its advantages, and sympathises in its success. There is no denying that the interest this man takes in the business is a source of pleasure to him; but we cannot suppose one of the parties in the cause, though his interest must be infinitely more lively, to feel an equal pleasure; because the painful passions are in him really roused, while in the other sympathy alone is excited, which is in itself pleasing. It is pretty much the same with the spectator of a tragedy. And, if the sympathy is the

more pleasing, it is because the actions are so much the more calculated to entrap the attention, and the object so much the more worthy. The pleasure is heightened also in both instances by a kind of intuitive recollection, which never forsakes the spectator, that no bad consequences will result to him from the action he is surveying. The recollection is the more predominant in the spectator of a tragedy, as it is impossible in any case totally to banish from his memory that the scenes are fictitious and illusive. In real life we always advert to futurity, and endeavour to draw inferences of the probable consequences; but the moment we take off our minds from what is passing on the stage to reasonings thereupon, the illusion is dispelled, and it again recurs that it is all fiction.

If we compare the degrees of pleasure we derive from the perusal of a novel and the representation of a tragedy, we shall observe a wonderful disparity. In both we feel an interest, in both sympathy is excited. But in the one, things are merely *related* to us as *having passed*, which it is not attempted to persuade us ever did *in reality* happen, and from which, therefore, we never can deceive ourselves into the idea that any consequences whatever will result; in the other, on the contrary, the actions themselves pass before our eyes; we are not tempted to ask ourselves whether they did ever happen; we see them happen, we are the witnesses of them; and were it not for the mellorating circumstances before mentioned, the sympathy would become so powerful as to be in the highest degree painful.

In tragedy, therefore, every thing which can strengthen the illusion should be introduced; for there are a thousand drawbacks on the effect, which it is impossible to remove, and which have always so great a force, as to put it out of the power of the poet to excite sympathy in a too painful degree. Every thing that is improbable, every thing which is out of the common course of nature, should, for this reason, be avoided, as nothing will so forcibly remind the spectator of the unreality of the illusion:

It is a mistaken idea, that we sympathise sooner with the distresses of kings and illustrious personages than with those of common life. Men are, in fact, more inclined to commiserate the sufferings of their equals, than of those whom they cannot but regard rather with awe than pity, as superior beings; and to take an interest in incidents which might have happened to themselves, sooner than in those remote from their own rank and habits. It is for this reason that Æschylus censures Euripides for introducing his kings in rags, as if they were more to be compassionated than other men :

Πεῦτε μὲν τὴν βασιλεύσσαν ῥακισμίσχων, ὅς ἐστι
ἰσχυρὰ
Τεῖν σιδήρεται ζωνεῖν ὄναι.

Some will, perhaps, imagine that it is in the power of the poet to excite our sympathy in too powerful a degree, because, at the representation of certain scenes, the spectators are frequently affected so as to make them shriek out with terror. But this is not sympathy; it is horror, it is disgust; and is only witnessed when some act is committed on the stage so cruel and bloody, as to make it impossible to contemplate it, even in idea, without horror.

Nec pueros coram populo Medea trucidet,
Aut humana palam coquat exa nefarius Atreus.
Hor. Ars Poet. l. 185.

It is for this reason, also, that many fine German dramas cannot be brought on the English stage; such as the *Robbers* of Schiller, and the *Adelaide* of Wulffingen, by Kotzebue: they are too horrible to be read without violent emotions; and Horace will tell you what an immense difference there is in point of effect between a relation and a representation.

Segnius irritant animos demissa per aurem,
Quàm quæ sunt oculis subjecta fidelibus, et quæ
Ipse sibi tradit spectator.

Ars Poet. l. 180.

I shall conclude these desultory remarks, strung together at random, without order or connection, by observing what little foundation there is for the general outcry in the literary world, against the prevalence of German dramas on our stage. Did they not possess uncommon merit, they would not meet with such general approbation. Fashion has but a partial influence; but they have drawn tears from an audience in a barn as well as in a theatre royal; they have been welcomed with plaudits in every little market-town in the three kingdoms, as well as in the metropolis. Nature speaks but one language; she is alike intelligible to the peasant and the man of letters, the tradesman and the man of fashion. While the muse of Germany shall continue to produce such plays as the *Stranger*, and *Lovers' Vows* *, who will not rejoice that translation is able to naturalize her efforts in our language?

MELANCHOLY HOURS.

(No. I.)

————— There is a mood,
(I sing not to the vacant and the young.) .
 There is a kindly mood of melancholy,
 That wings the soul and points her to the skies.
DRES.

PHILOSOPHERS have divested themselves of their natural apathy, and poets have risen above themselves, in descanting on the pleasures of Melancholy. There is no mind so gross, no understanding so uncultivated, as to be incapable, at certain moments, and amid certain combinations, of feeling that sublime influence upon the spirits which steals the soul from the petty anxieties of the world,

“ And fits it to hold converse with the gods.”

* I speak of these plays only as adapted to our stage by the elegant pens of Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Inchbold.

I must confess, if such there be who never felt the divine abstraction, I envy them not their insensibility. For my own part, it is from the indulgence of this soothing power that I derive the most exquisite of gratifications : at the calm hour of moonlight, amid all the sublime serenity, the dead stillness of the night ; or when the howling storm rages in the heavens, the rain pelts on my roof, and the winds whistle through the crannies of my apartment ; I feel the divine mood of melancholy upon me ; I imagine myself placed upon an eminence, above the crowds who pant below in the dusty tracks of wealth and honour. The black catalogue of crimes and of vice, the sad tissue of wretchedness and woe, passes in review before me ; and I look down upon man with an eye of pity and commiseration. Though the scenes which I survey be mournful, and the ideas they excite equally sombre ; though the tears gush as I contemplate them, and my heart feels heavy with the sorrowful emotions which they inspire ; yet are they not unaccompanied with sensations of the purest and most ecstatic bliss.

It is to the spectator alone that melancholy is forbidding ; in herself she is soft and interesting, and capable of affording pure and unalloyed delight. Ask the lover why he muses by the side of the purling brook, or plunges into the deep gloom of the forest ? Ask the unfortunate why he seeks the still shades of solitude ? or the man who feels the pangs of disappointed ambition, why he retires into the silent walks of seclusion ? — And he will tell you that he derives a pleasure therefrom, which nothing else can impart. It is the delight of melancholy ; but the melancholy of these beings is as far removed from that of the philosopher, as are the narrow and contracted complaints of selfishness from the mournful regrets of expansive philanthropy ; as are the depending intervals of insanity from the occasional depressions of benevolent sensibility.

The man who has attained that calm equanimity which qualifies him to look down upon the petty evils of life with indifference ; who can so far conquer

the weakness of nature, as to consider the sufferings of the individual of little moment, when put in competition with the welfare of the community, is alone the true philosopher. His melancholy is not excited by the retrospect of his own misfortunes; it has its rise from the contemplation of the miseries incident to life, and the evils which obtrude themselves upon society, and interrupt the harmony of nature. It would be arrogating too much merit to myself, to assert that I have a just claim to the title of a philosopher, as it is here defined; or to say that the speculations of my melancholy hours are equally disinterested: be this as it may, I have determined to present my solitary effusions to the public; they will at least have the merit of novelty to recommend them, and may possibly, in some measure, be instrumental in the melioration of the human heart, or the correction of false prepossessions. This is the height of my ambition; this once attained, and my end will be fully accomplished. One thing I can safely premise, though far from being the coinages of a heart at ease, they will contain neither the querulous captiousness of misfortune, nor the bitter taunts of misanthropy. Society is a chain of which I am merely a link: all men are my associates in error; and though some may have gone farther in the ways of guilt than myself, yet is not in me to sit in judgment upon them; it is mine to treat them rather in pity than in anger, to lament their crimes, and to weep over their sufferings. As these papers will be the amusement of those hours of relaxation, when the mind recedes from the vexations of business, and sinks into itself for a moment of solitary ease, rather than the efforts of literary leisure, the reader will not expect to find in them unusual elegance of language, or studied propriety of style. In the short and necessary intervals of cessation from the anxieties of an irksome employment, one finds little time to be solicitous about expression. If, therefore, the fervour of a glowing mind expresses itself in too warm and luxuriant a manner for the cold ear of dull pro-

priety, let the fastidious critic find a selfish pleasure in desecrating it. To criticism melancholy is indifferent. If learning cannot be better employed than in declaiming against the defects, while it is insensible to the beauties, of a performance, well may we exclaim with the poet,

Ὁ εὐμεινὲς ἀγνοεῖ ὡς ἀμεταμέλως τις εἶ
Ὅταν αἱ σὺ δ' ἔχῃς ὄντας σ' ἔκ ἀγνείῃ.

W.

MELANCHOLY HOURS.

(No. II.)

But (wel-a-day !) who loves the Muses now ?
Or helps the climber of the sacred hall ?
None leave to them ; but strive to disallow
All heavenly dew, the goddesses distill.

From Orpheus's Shepherd's Pipe. Eg. 5.

It is a melancholy reflection, and a reflection which often sinks heavily on my soul, that the Sons of Genius generally seem predestined to encounter the rudest storms of adversity ; to struggle, unnoticed, with poverty and misfortune. The annals of the world present us with many corroborations of this remark ; and, alas ! who can tell how many unhappy beings, who might have shone with distinguished lustre among the stars which illumine our hemisphere, may have sunk unknown beneath the pressure of untoward circumstances ? who knows how many may have shrunk, with all the exquisite sensibility of genius, from the rude and riotous discord of the world, into the peaceful slumbers of death ? Among the number of those whose talents might have elevated them to the first rank of eminence, but who have been overwhelmed with the accumulated ills of poverty and misfortune, I do not hesitate to rank a young man whom I once accounted it my greatest happiness to be able to call my friend.

CHARLES WANLEY was the only son of an humble village rector, who just lived to give him a liberal education, and then left him unprovided for and unprotected, to struggle through the world as well as he could. With a heart glowing with the enthusiasm of poetry and romance, with a sensibility the most exquisite, and with an indignant pride, which swelled in his veins, and told him he was a man, my friend found himself cast upon the wide world at the age of sixteen; an adventurer, without fortune and without connection. As his independent spirit could not brook the idea of being a burden to those whom his father had taught him to consider only as allied by blood, and not by affection, he looked about him for a situation which could ensure to him, by his own exertions, an honourable competence. It was not long before such a situation offered; and Charles precipitately articulated himself to an attorney, without giving himself time to consult his own inclinations, or the disposition of his master. The transition from Sophocles and Euripides, Theocritus and Ovid, to Finche and Wood, Coke and Wynne, was striking and difficult; but Charles applied himself with his wonted ardour to his new study, as considering it not only his interest, but his duty so to do. It was not long, however, before he discovered that he disliked the law, that he disliked his situation, and that he despised his master. The fact was, my friend had many mortifications to endure, which his haughty soul could ill brook. The attorney to whom he was articulated was one of those narrow-minded beings who consider wealth as alone entitled to respect. He had discovered that his clerk was *very* poor and *very* destitute of friends, and thence he *very* naturally concluded that he might insult him with impunity. It appears, however, that he was mistaken in his calculations. I one night remarked that my friend was unusually thoughtful. I ventured to ask him whether he had met with any thing particular to ruffle his spirits. He looked at me for some moments significantly; then, as if roused to fury by

the recollection — “ I have,” said he vehemently, “ I have, I have. He has insulted me grossly, and I will bear it no longer.” He now walked up and down the room with visible emotion. — Presently he sat down. — He seemed more composed. “ My friend,” said he, “ I have endured much from this man. I conceived it my duty to forbear ; but I have forborne until forbearance is blameable, and, by the Almighty, I will never again endure what I have endured this day. But not only this man ; every one thinks he may treat me with contumely, because I am poor and friendless. But I am a man, and will no longer tamely submit to be the sport of fools, and the foot-ball of caprice. In this spot of earth, though it gave me birth, I can never taste of ease. Here I must be miserable. The principal end of man is to arrive at happiness. Here I can never attain it ; and here, therefore, I will no longer remain. My obligations to the rascal, who calls himself my master, are cancelled by his abuse of the authority I rashly placed in his hands. I have no relations to bind me to this particular place.” The tears started in his eyes as he spoke, “ I have no tender ties to bid me stay, and why *do* I stay ? The world is all before me. My inclination leads me to travel ; I will pursue that inclination ; and, perhaps, in a strange land I may find that repose which is denied to me in the place of my birth. My finances, it is true, are ill able to support the expenses of travelling : but what then — Goldsmith, my friend,” — with rising enthusiasm, — “ Goldsmith traversed Europe on foot, and I am as hardy as Goldsmith. Yes, I will go ; and perhaps, ere long, I may sit me down on some towering mountain, and exclaim with him, while a hundred realms lie in perspective before me,

“ ‘ Creation’s heir, the world, the world is mine.’ ”

It was in vain I entreated him to reflect maturely, ere he took so bold a step ; he was deaf to my importunities, and the next morning I received

a letter informing me of his departure. He was observed about sun-rise, sitting on the style, at the top of an eminence which commanded a prospect of the surrounding country, pensively looking towards the village. I could divine his emotions, on thus casting probably a last look on his native place. The neat white parsonage-house, with the honeysuckle mantling on its wall, I knew, would receive his last glance; and the image of his father would present itself to his mind, with a melancholy pleasure, as he was thus hastening, a solitary individual, to plunge himself into the crowds of the world, deprived of that fostering hand which would otherwise have been his support and guide.

From this period Charles Waneley was never heard of at L——; and, as his few relations cared little about him, in a short time it was almost forgotten that such a being had ever been in existence.

About five years had elapsed from this period, when my occasions led me to the Continent. I will confess I was not without a romantic hope, that I might again meet with my lost friend; and that often, with that idea, I scrutinized the features of the passengers. One fine moonlight night, as I was strolling down the grand Italian Strada di Toledo, at Naples, I observed a crowd assembled round a man, who, with impassioned gestures, seemed to be vehemently declaiming to the multitude. It was one of the *Improvvisatori*, who recite extempore verses in the streets of Naples, for what money they can collect from the hearers. I stopped to listen to the man's metrical romance, and had remained in the attitude of attention some time, when, happening to turn round, I beheld a person very shabbily dressed, stedfastly gazing at me. The moon shone full in his face. I thought his features were familiar to me. He was pale and emaciated, and his countenance bore marks of the deepest dejection. Yet, amidst all these changes, I thought I recognised Charles Waneley. I stood stupified with surprise. My senses nearly failed me. On recovering myself, I looked again, but he had left the spot

the moment he found himself observed. I darted through the crowd, and ran every way which I thought he could have gone ; but it was all to no purpose. Nobody knew him. Nobody had even seen such a person. The two following days I renewed my enquiries, and at last discovered the lodgings where a man of his description had resided. But he had left Naples the morning after his form had struck my eyes. I found he gained a subsistence by drawing rude figures in chalks, and vending them among the peasantry. I could no longer doubt it was my friend ; and immediately perceived that his haughty spirit could not bear to be recognised in such degrading circumstances, by one who had known him in better days. Lamenting the misguided notions which had thus again thrown him from me, I left Naples, now grown hateful to my sight, and embarked for England. It is now nearly twenty years since this rencounter, during which period he has not been heard of ; and there can be little doubt that this unfortunate young man has found, in some remote corner of the Continent, an obscure and an unlamented grave.

Thus, those talents which were formed to do honour to human nature, and to the country which gave them birth, have been nipped in the bud by the frosts of poverty and scorn ; and their unhappy possessor lies in an unknown and nameless tomb, who might, under happier circumstances, have risen to the highest pinnacle of ambition and renown.

W.

MELANCHOLY HOURS.

(No. III.)

Few know that elegance of soul refined,
Whose soft sensation feels a quicker joy
From melancholy's scenes than the dull pride
Of tasteless splendour and magnificence
Can e'er afford.

Warburton's Melancholy

IN one of my midnight rambles down the side of the Trent, the river which waters the place of my nativity, as I was musing on the various evils which darken the life of man, and which have their rise in the malevolence and ill-nature of his fellows, the sound of a flute from an adjoining copse attracted my attention. The tune it played was mournful, yet soothing. It was suited to the solemnity of the hour. As the distant notes came wafted at intervals on my ear, now with gradual swell, then dying away on the silence of the night, I felt the tide of indignation subside within me, and give place to the solemn calm of repose. I listened for some time in breathless ravishment. The strain ceased, yet the sounds still vibrated on my heart; and the visions of bliss which they excited still glowed on my imagination. I was then standing in one of my favourite retreats. It was a little alcove, overshadowed with willows, and a mossy seat at the back invited to rest. I laid myself listlessly on the bank. The Trent murmured softly at my feet, and the willows sighed as they waved over my head. It was the holy moment of repose, and I soon sunk into a deep sleep. The operations of fancy in a slumber, induced by a combination of circumstances so powerful and uncommon, could not fail to be wild and romantic in the extreme. Methought I found myself in an extensive area, filled with an immense concourse of people. At one end was a throne of adamant, on which sat a female, in whose aspect I immediately recognised a divinity. She was clad in a garb of

azure; on her forehead she bore a sun, whose splendour the eyes of many were unable to bear, and whose rays illumined the whole space, and penetrated into the deepest recesses of darkness. The aspect of the goddess at a distance was forbidding; but on a nearer approach, it was mild and engaging. Her eyes were blue and piercing; and there was a fascination in her smile which charmed as if by enchantment. The air of intelligence which beamed in her look made the beholder shrink into himself with the consciousness of inferiority; yet the affability of her deportment, and the simplicity and gentleness of her manners, soon re-assured him, while the bewitching softness which she could at times assume won his permanent esteem. On enquiry of a by-stander who it was that sat on the throne, and what was the occasion of so uncommon an assembly, he informed me that it was the Goddess of Wisdom, who had at last succeeded in regaining the dominion of the earth, which Folly had so long usurped; that she sat there in her judicial capacity, in order to try the merits of many who were supposed to be the secret emissaries of Folly. In this way I understood Envy and Malevolence had been sentenced to perpetual banishment, though several of their adherents yet remained among men, whose minds were too gross to be irradiated with the light of wisdom. One trial, I understood, was just ended, and another supposed delinquent was about to be put to the bar. With much curiosity I hurried forwards to survey the figure which now approached. She was habited in black, and veiled to the waist. Her pace was solemn and majestic, yet in every movement was a winning gracefulness. As she approached to the bar, I got a nearer view of her; when, what was my astonishment to recognise in her the person of my favourite goddess, Melancholy! Amazed that she, whom I had always looked upon as the sister and companion of Wisdom, should be brought to trial as an emissary and an adherent of Folly, I waited in mute impatience for the accusation which

could be framed against her.—On looking towards the centre of the area, I was much surprised to see a bustling little *Cit* of my acquaintance, who, by his hemming and clearing, I concluded was going to make the charge. As he was a self-important little fellow, full of consequence and business, and totally incapable of all the finer emotions of the soul, I could not conceive what ground of complaint *he* could have against Melancholy, who, I was persuaded, would never have deigned to take up her residence for a moment in *his* breast. When I recollected, however, that he had some sparks of ambition in his composition, and that he was an envious, carping, little mortal, who had formed the design of shouldering himself into notice by decrying the defects of others, while he was insensible to his own, my amazement and my apprehensions vanished, as I perceived he only wanted to make a display of his own talent, in doing which I did not fear his making himself sufficiently ridiculous.

After a good deal of irrelevant circumlocution, he boldly began the accusation of Melancholy. I shall not dwell upon many absurd and many invidious parts of his speech, nor upon the many blunders in the misapplication of words, such as “*deducc*” for “*detract*,” and others of a similar nature, which my poor friend committed in the course of his harangue ; but shall only dwell upon the material parts of the charge.

He represented the prisoner as the offspring of *Idleness* and *Discontent*, who was at all times a sulky, sullen, and “*eminently useless*” member of the community, and not unfrequently a very dangerous one. He declared it to be his opinion, that in case she were to be suffered to prevail, mankind would soon become “*too idle to go*,” and would all lie down and perish through indolence, or through forgetting that sustenance was necessary for the preservation of existence ; and concluded with painting the horrors which would attend such a depopulation of the earth, in such colours as

made many weak minds regard the goddess with fear and abhorrence.

Having concluded, the accused was called upon for her defence. She immediately, with a graceful gesture, lifted up the veil which concealed her face, and discovered a countenance so soft, so lovely, and so sweetly expressive, as to strike the beholders with involuntary admiration, and which, at one glance, overturned all the flimsy sophistry of my poor friend the citizen; and when the silver tones of her voice were heard, the murmurs, which until then had continually arisen from the crowd, were hushed to a dead still, and the whole multitude stood transfixed in breathless attention. As near as I can recollect, these were the words in which she addressed herself to the throne of Wisdom:—

I shall not deign to give a DIRECT answer to the various insinuations which have been thrown out against me by my accuser. Let it suffice that I declare my true history, in opposition to that which has been so artfully fabricated to my disadvantage. In that early age of the world when mankind followed the peaceful avocations of a pastoral life only, and contentment and harmony reigned in every vale, I was not known among men; but when, in process of time, Ambition and Vice, with their attendant evils, were sent down as a scourge to the human race, I made my appearance. I am the offspring of Misfortune and Virtue, and was sent by Heaven to teach my parents how to support their afflictions with magnanimity. As I grew up, I became the intimate friend of the wisest among men. I was the bosom friend of Plato, and other illustrious sages of antiquity; and was then often known by the name of Philosophy; though, in present times, when that title is usurped by mere makers of experiments, and inventors of blacking-cakes, I am only known by the appellation of Melancholy. So far from being of a discontented disposition, my very essence is pious and resigned contentment. I teach my votaries to

support every vicissitude of fortune with calmness and fortitude. It is mine to subdue the stormy propensities of passion and vice, to foster and encourage the principles of benevolence and philanthropy, and to cherish and bring to perfection the seeds of virtue and wisdom. Though feared and hated by those who, like my accuser, are ignorant of my nature, I am courted and cherished by all the truly wise, the good, and the great: the poet views me as the goddess of inspiration; the true philosopher acknowledges himself indebted to me for his most expansive views of human nature; the good man owes to me that hatred of the wrong and love of the right, and that disdain for the consequences which may result from the performance of his duties, which keeps him good; and the religious flies to me for the only clear and unencumbered view of the attributes and perfections of the Deity. So far from being idle, my mind is ever on the wing in the regions of fancy, or that true philosophy which opens the book of human nature, and raises the soul above the evils incident to life. If I am useless, in the same degree were Plato and Socrates, Locke and Paley, useless. It is true that my immediate influence is confined, but its effects are disseminated by means of literature over every age and nation; and mankind, in every generation, and in every clime, may look to me as their remote Illuminator, the original spring of the principal intellectual benefits they possess. But as there is no good without its attendant evil, so I have an elder sister, called Phrenzy, for whom I have often been mistaken, who sometimes follows close on my steps; and to her I owe much of the obloquy which is attached to my name; though the puerile accusation which has just been brought against me turns on points which apply more exclusively to myself.

She ceased, and a dead pause ensued. The multitude seemed struck with the fascination of her utterance and gesture, and the sounds of her voice still seemed to vibrate on every ear. The attention

of the assembly, however, was soon recalled to the accuser; and their indignation at his baseness rose to such a height as to threaten general tumult, when the Goddess of Wisdom arose, and waving her hand for silence, beckoned the prisoner to her, placed her on her right hand, and, with a sweet smile, acknowledged her for her old companion and friend. She then turned to the accuser, with a frown of severity so terrible, that I involuntarily started with terror from my poor misguided friend, and with the violence of the start I awoke; and, instead of the throne of the Goddess of Wisdom, and the vast assembly of people, beheld the first rays of the morning peeping over the eastern cloud; and, instead of the loud murmurs of the incensed multitude, heard nothing but the soft gurgling of the river at my feet, and the rustling wing of the skylark, who was now beginning his first matin song.

W.

MELANCHOLY HOURS.

(No. IV.)

Σκοπησαμενος εὐρισκον ουδαμως αν αλλως ούτος
διαπραξαμενος.

ISOCR.

THE world has often heard of fortune-hunters, egacy-hunters, popularity-hunters, and hunters of various descriptions. One diversity, however, of this very extensive species has hitherto eluded public animadversion: I allude to the class of friend-hunters—men who make it the business of their lives to acquire friends, in the hope, through their influence, to arrive at some desirable point of ambitious eminence. Of all the mortifications and anxieties to which mankind voluntarily subject themselves, from the expectation of future benefit, there are, perhaps, none more galling, none more insupportable, than those attendant on friend-making.—Show a man that you court his society, and

it is a signal for him to treat you with neglect and contumely. Humour his passions, and he despises you as a sycophant. Pay implicit deference to his opinions, and he laughs at you for your folly. In all, he views you with contempt, as the creature of his will, and the slave of his caprice. I remember I once solicited the acquaintance and coveted the friendship of one man; and, thank God, I can yet say (and I hope on my death-bed I shall be able to say the same) of ONLY one man.

Germanicus was a character of considerable eminence in the literary world. He had the reputation not only of an enlightened understanding and refined taste, but of openness of heart and goodness of disposition. His name always carried with it that weight and authority which are due to learning and genius in every situation. His manners were polished, and his conversation elegant. In short, he possessed every qualification which could render him an enviable addition to the circle of every man's friends. With such a character, as I was then very young, I could not fail to feel an ambition of becoming acquainted, when the opportunity offered, and in a short time we were upon terms of familiarity. To ripen this familiarity into friendship, as far as the most awkward diffidence would permit, was my strenuous endeavour. If his opinions contradicted mine, I immediately, without reasoning on the subject, conceded the point to him as a matter of course that he must be right, and by consequence that I must be wrong. Did he utter a witicism, I was sure to laugh; and if he looked grave, though nobody could tell why, it was mine to groan. By thus conforming myself to his humour, I flattered myself I was making some progress in his good graces; but I was soon undeceived. A man seldom cares much for that which costs him no pains to procure. Whether Germanicus found me a troublesome visitor, or whether he was really displeased with something I had unwittingly said or done, certain it is, that when I met him one day, in company with persons of apparent

figure, he had lost all recollection of my features. I called upon him, but Germanicus was not at home. Again and again I gave a hesitating knock at the great man's door — all was to no purpose. He was still not at home. The sly meaning however, which was couched in the sneer of the servant the last time that, half ashamed of my errand, I made my enquiries at his house, convinced me of what I ought to have known before, that Germanicus was at home to all the world save me. I believe, with all my seeming humility, I am a confounded proud fellow at bottom. My rage at this discovery, therefore, may be better conceived than described. Ten thousand curses did I imprecate on the foolish vanity which led me to solicit the friendship of my superior; and again and again did I vow down eternal vengeance on my head, if I evermore condescended *thus* to court the acquaintance of man. To this resolution I believe I shall ever adhere. If I am destined to make any progress in the world, it will be by my own individual exertions. As I elbow my way through the crowded vale of life, I will never, in any emergency, call on my selfish neighbour for assistance. If my strength give way beneath the pressure of calamity, I shall sink without *his* whine of hypocritical condolence; and, if I do sink, let him kick me into a ditch, and go about his business. I asked not his assistance while living, it will be of no service to me when dead.

Believe me, reader, whoever thou mayest be, there are few among mortals whose friendship, when acquired, will repay thee for the meanness of solicitation. If a man voluntarily holds out his hand to thee, take it with caution. If thou find him honest, be not backward to receive his proffered assistance; and be anxious, when occasion shall require, to yield to him thine own. A real friend is the most valuable blessing a man can possess; and, mark me, it is by far the most rare. It is a black swan. But, whatever thou mayest do, *solicit* not friendship. If thou art young, and would make thy way in the world, bind thyself a seven

years' apprentice to a city tallow-chandler, and thou mayest in time come to be lord mayor. Many people have made their fortunes at a tailor's board. Periwig-makers have been known to buy their country-seats, and bellows-menders have started their curricks; but seldom, very seldom, has the man who placed his dependance on the friendship of his fellow-men arrived at even the shadow of the honours to which, through that medium, he aspired. Nay, even if thou shouldst find a friend ready to lend thee a helping hand, the moment, by his assistance, thou hast gained some little eminence, he will be the first to hurl thee down to thy primitive, and now, perhaps, irremediable obscurity.

Yet I see no more reason for complaint on the ground of the fallacy of human friendship, than I do for any other ordonnance of nature, which may *appear* to run counter to our happiness. Man is naturally a selfish creature; and it is only by the aid of philosophy that he can so far conquer the defects of his being, as to be capable of disinterested friendship. *Who*, then, can expect to find that benign disposition, which manifests itself in acts of disinterested benevolence and spontaneous affection, a common visitor? *Who* can preach philosophy to the mob? *

The recluse, who does not easily assimilate with the herd of mankind, and whose manners with difficulty bend to the peculiarities of others, is not likely to have many *real friends*. His enjoyments, therefore, must be solitary, lone, and melancholy. His only friend is himself. As he sits immersed in reverie by his midnight fire, and hears without the wild gusts of wind fitfully careering over the plain, he listens sadly attentive; and as the varied intonations of the howling blast articulate to his enthu-

* By the word mob here, the author does not mean to include merely the lower classes. In the present acceptation, it takes in a great part of the mob of quality; men who are either too ignorant, or too much taken up with base and grovelling pursuits, to have room for any of the more amiable affections.

siastic ear, he converses with the spirits of the departed, while, between each dreary pause of the storm, he holds solitary communion with himself. Such is the social intercourse of the recluse ; yet he frequently feels the soft consolations of friendship. A heart formed for the gentler emotions of the soul often feels as strong an interest for what are called *brutes*, as most bipeds affect to feel for each other. Montaigne had his cat ; I have read of a man whose only friend was a large spider ; and Trenck, in his dungeon, would sooner have lost his right hand, than the poor little mouse, which, grown confident with indulgence, used to beguile the tedious hours of imprisonment with his gambols. For my own part, I believe my dog, who at this moment, seated on his hinder legs, is wistfully surveying me, as if he was conscious of all that is passing in my mind ; — my dog, I say, is as sincere, and, whatever the world may say, nearly as *dear* a friend, as any I possess : and, when I shall receive that summons which may not now be far distant, he will whine a funeral requiem over my grave, more piteously than all the hired mourners in Christendom. Well, well, poor Bob has had a kind master of me ; and, for my part, I verily believe there are few things on this earth I shall leave with more regret than this faithful companion of the happy hours of my infancy.

W.

MELANCHOLY HOURS.

(No. V.)

*Un Sonnet sans défaut vaud seul un long poëme,
 Mais en vain mille auteurs y pensent arriver ;
 A peine.....
 peut-on admirer deux ou trois entre mille.*

BOILEAU.

THERE is no species of poetry which is better adapted to the taste of a melancholy man, than the

sonnet. While its brevity precludes the possibility of its becoming tiresome, and its full and expected close accords well with his dejected, and perhaps somewhat languid, tone of mind, its elegiac delicacy and querimonious plaintiveness come in pleasing consonance with his feelings.

This elegant little poem has met with a peculiar fate in this country; half a century ago it was regarded as utterly repugnant to the nature of our language, while at present it is the popular vehicle of the most admired sentiments of our best living poets. This remarkable mutation in the opinions of our countrymen may, however, be accounted for on plain and common principles. The earlier English sonnetteers confined themselves in general too strictly to the Italian model, as well in the disposition of the rhymes, as in the cast of the ideas. A sonnet with them was only another word for some metaphysical conceit, or clumsy antithesis, contained in fourteen harsh lines, full of obscure inversions and ill-managed expletives. They bound themselves down to a pattern, which was in itself faulty; and they met with the common fate of servile imitators, in retaining all the defects of their original, while they suffered the beauties to escape in the process. Their sonnets are like copies of a bad picture; however accurately copied, they are still bad. Our contemporaries, on the contrary, have given scope to their genius in the sonnet without restraint, sometimes even growing licentious in their liberty; setting at defiance those rules which form its distinguishing peculiarity, and, under the name of sonnet, soaring or falling into ode or elegy. Their compositions, of course, are impressed with all those excellences which would have marked their respective productions in any similar walk of poetry.

It has never been disputed that the sonnet first arrived at celebrity in the Italian: a language which, as it abounds in a musical similarity of terminations, is more eminently qualified to give ease and eloquence to the legitimate sonnet, restricted as it is to stated and frequently-recurring rhymes of the

same class. As to the inventors of this little structure of verse, they are involved in impenetrable obscurity. Some authors have ascribed it singly to Guitone D'Arezzo, an Italian poet of the thirteenth century; but they have no sort of authority to adduce in support of their assertions. Arguing upon probabilities, with some slight coincidental corroborations, I should be inclined to maintain that its origin may be referred to an earlier period; that it may be looked for among the Provençals, who left scarcely any combination of metrical sounds unattempted; and who, delighting as they did in sound and jingle, might very possibly strike out this harmonious stanza of fourteen lines. Be this as it may, Dante and Petrarch were the first poets who rendered it popular; and to Dante and Petrarch, therefore, we must resort for its required rules.

In an ingenious paper of Dr. Drake's "Literary Hours," a book which I have read again and again with undiminished pleasure, the merits of the various English writers in this delicate mode of composition are appreciated with much justice and discrimination. His veneration for Milton, however, has, if I may venture to oppose my judgment to his, carried him too far in praise of his sonnets. Those to the Nightingale and to Mr. Lawrence are, I think, alone entitled to the praise of *mediocrity*; and, if my memory fail me not, my opinion is sanctioned by the testimony of our late illustrious biographer of the poets.

The sonnets of Drummond are characterised as exquisite. It is somewhat strange, if this description be just, that they should so long have sunk into utter oblivion, to be revived only by a species of black-letter *mania*, which prevailed during the latter half of the eighteenth century, and of which some vestiges yet remain; the more especially as Dr. Johnson, to whom they could scarcely be unknown, tells us, that "The fabric of the sonnet has *never* succeeded in our language." For my own part, I can say nothing of them. I have long sought a copy of Drummond's works, and I have sought it

in vain ; but from specimens which I have casually met with in quotations, I am forcibly inclined to favour the idea, that, as they possess natural and pathetic sentiments, clothed in tolerably harmonious language, they are entitled to the praise which has been so liberally bestowed on them.

Sir Philip Sidney's *Astrophel and Stella* consists of a number of sonnets, which have been unaccountably passed over by Dr. Drake, and all our other critics who have written on the subject. Many of them are eminently beautiful. The works of this neglected poet may occupy a future number of my lucubrations.

Excepting these two poets, I believe there is scarcely a writer who has arrived at any degree of excellence in the sonnet, until of late years, when our vernacular bards have raised it to a degree of eminence and dignity among the various kinds of poetical composition, which seems almost incompatible with its very circumscribed limits.

Passing over the classical compositions of Warton, which are formed more on the model of the Greek epigram, or epitaph, than the Italian sonnet, Mr Bowles and Charlotte Smith are the first modern writers who have met with distinguished success in the sonnet. Those of the former, in particular, are standards of excellence in this department. To much natural and accurate description, they unite a strain of the most exquisitely tender and delicate sentiment ; and, with a nervous strength of diction, and a wild freedom of versification, they combine an euphonious melody, and consonant cadence, unequalled in the English language. While they possess, however, the superior merit of an original style, they are not unfrequently deformed by instances of that ambitious singularity which is but too frequently its concomitant. Of these the introduction of rhymes long since obsolete, is not the least striking. Though, in some cases, these revivals of antiquated phrase have a pleasing effect ; yet they are oftentimes uncouth and repulsive. Mr. Bowles has almost always thrown aside the common

rules of the sonnet ; his pieces have no more claim to that specific denomination, than that they are confined to fourteen lines. How far this deviation from established principle is justifiable, may be disputed : for if, on the one hand, it be alleged that the confinement to the stated repetition of rhymes, so distant and frequent, is a restraint which is not compensated by an adequate effect on the other, it must be conceded, that these little poems are no longer *sonnets* than while they conform to the rules of the sonnet, and that the moment they forsake them they ought to resign the appellation.

The name bears evident affinity to the Italian *sonante*, "to resound,"—"sing around," which originated in the Latin "*sonare*,"—"sounding, jingling, ringing;" or indeed, it may come immediately from the French *sonner*, to sound, or ring, in which language, it is observable, we first meet with the word *sonnette*, where it signifies a *little bell*, and *sonnetier* a maker of little bells ; and this derivation affords a presumption, almost amounting to certainty, that the conjecture before advanced, that the sonnet originated with the Provençals, is well founded. It is somewhat strange that these contending derivations have not been before observed, as they tend to settle a question, which, however intrinsically unimportant, is curious, and has been much agitated.

But, wherever the name originated, it evidently bears relation only to the peculiarity of a set of chiming and jingling terminations, and of course can no longer be applied with propriety where that peculiarity is not preserved.

The single stanza of fourteen lines, properly varied in their correspondent closes, is, notwithstanding, so well adapted for the expression of any pathetic sentiment, and is so pleasing and satisfactory to the ear, when once accustomed to it, that our poetry would suffer a material loss were it to be disused through a rigid adherence to mere propriety of name. At the same time, our language does not supply a

sufficiency of similar terminations to render the strict observance of its rules at all easy, or compatible with ease or elegance. The only question, therefore, is, whether the musical effect produced by the adherence to this difficult structure of verse overbalances the restraint it imposes on the poet ; and in case we decide in the negative, whether we ought to preserve the denomination of *sonnet*, when we utterly renounce the very peculiarities which procured it that cognomen.

In the present enlightened age, I think it will not be disputed that mere jingle and sound ought invariably to be sacrificed to sentiment and expression. Musical effect is a very subordinate consideration ; it is the gilding to the cornices of a Vitruvian edifice ; the colouring to a shaded design of Michael Angelo. In its place, it adds to the effect of the whole ; but, when rendered a principle object of attention, it is ridiculous and disgusting. Rhyme is no necessary adjunct of true poetry. Southey's *Thalaba* is a fine poem, with no rhyme, and very little measure or metre ; and the production which is reduced to mere prose, by being deprived of its jingle, could never possess, in any state, the marks of inspiration.

So far, therefore, I am of opinion that it is advisable to renounce the Italian fabric altogether. We have already sufficient restrictions laid upon us by the metrical laws of our native tongue, and I do not see any reason out of a blind regard for precedent, to tie ourselves to a difficult structure of verse, which probably originated with the Troubadours, or wandering bards of France and Normandy, or with a yet ruder race, one which is not productive of any rational effect, and which only pleases the ear by frequent repetition ; as men who have once had the greatest aversion to strong wines and spirituous liquors are, by habit, at last brought to regard them as delicacies.

In advancing this opinion, I am aware that I am opposing myself to the declared sentiments of many individuals whom I greatly respect and admire.

Miss Seward (and Miss Seward is in herself a host) has, both theoretically and practically, defended the Italian structure. Mr. Capel Loft has likewise favoured the world with many sonnets, in which he shows his approval of the legitimate model by his adherence to its rules; and many of the beautiful poems of Mrs. Loft, published in the *Monthly Mirror*, are likewise successfully formed by those rules. Much, however, as I admire these writers, and ample as is the credence I give to their critical discrimination, I cannot, on mature reflection, subscribe to their position of the expediency of adopting this structure in our poetry, and I attribute their success in it more to their individual powers, which would have surmounted much greater difficulties, than to the adaptability of this foreign fabric to our stubborn and intractable language.

If the question, however, turn only on the propriety of giving to a poem a name which must be acknowledged to be entirely inappropriate, and to which it can have no sort of claim, I must confess that it is manifestly indefensible, and we must then either pitch upon another appellation for our quatorzain, or banish it from our language; a measure which every lover of true poetry must sincerely lament.

MELANCHOLY HOURS.

(No. VI.)

Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air.

GRAY.

POETRY is a blossom of very delicate growth; it requires the maturing influence of vernal suns, and every encouragement of culture and attention, to bring it to its natural perfection. The pursuits of the mathematician, or the mechanical genius, are

such as require rather strength and insensibility of mind, than that exquisite and finely wrought susceptibility, which invariably marks the temperament of the true poet; and it is for this reason, that, while men of science have not unfrequently arisen from the abodes of poverty and labour, very few legitimate children of the Muse have ever emerged from the shades of hereditary obscurity.

It is painful to reflect how many a bard now lies, nameless and forgotten, in the narrow house, who, had he been born to competence and leisure, might have usurped the laurels from the most distinguished personages in the temple of Fame. The very consciousness of merit itself often acts in direct opposition to a stimulus to exertion, by exciting that mournful indignation at supposititious neglect, which urges a sullen concealment of talent, and drives its possessor to that misanthropic discontent which preys on the vitals, and soon produces untimely mortality. A sentiment like this has, no doubt, often actuated beings, who attracted notice, perhaps, while they lived, only by their singularity, and who were forgotten almost ere their parent earth had closed over their heads,—beings who lived but to mourn and to languish for what they were never destined to enjoy, and whose exalted endowments were buried with them in their graves, by the want of a little of that superfluity which serves to pamper the debased appetites of the enervated sons of luxury and sloth.

The present age, however, has furnished us with two illustrious instances of poverty bursting through the cloud of surrounding impediments into the full blaze of notoriety and eminence. I allude to the two Bloomfields, bards who may challenge a comparison with the most distinguished favourites of the Muse, and who both passed the day-spring of life in labour, indigence, and obscurity.

The author of the *Farmer's Boy* hath already received the applause he justly deserved. It yet remains for the *Essay on War* to enjoy all the distinction it

so richly merits, as well from its sterling worth, as from the circumstance of its author. Whether the present age will be inclined to do it full justice, may indeed be feared. Had Mr. Nathaniel Bloomfield made his appearance in the horizon of letters prior to his brother, he would undoubtedly have been considered as a meteor of uncommon attraction; the critics would have admired, because it would have been the fashion to admire. But it is to be apprehended that our countrymen became inured to phenomena; — it is to be apprehended that the frivolity of the age cannot endure a repetition of the uncommon — that it will no longer be the rage to patronise indigent merit: that the *beau monde* will therefore neglect, and that, by a necessary consequence, the critics will sneer!!

Nevertheless, sooner or later, merit will meet with its reward: and though the popularity of Mr. Bloomfield may be delayed, he *must*, at one time or other, receive the meed due to its deserts. Posterity will judge impartially; and if bold and vivid images, and original conceptions, luminously displayed, and judiciously opposed, have any claim to the regard of mankind, the name of Nathaniel Bloomfield will not be without its high and appropriate honours.

Rousseau very truly observes, that with whatever talent a man may be born, the art of writing is not easily obtained. If this be applicable to men enjoying every advantage of scholastic initiation, how much more forcibly must it apply to the offspring of a poor village tailor, untaught, and destitute both of the means and the time necessary for the cultivation of the mind! If the art of writing be of difficult attainment to those who make it the study of their lives, what must it be to him who, perhaps, for the first forty years of his life, never entertained a thought that any thing he could write would be deemed worthy of the attention of the public! — whose only time for rumination was such as a sedentary and sickly employment would allow: on the tailor's board surrounded with men,

perhaps, of depraved and rude habits, and impure conversation !

And yet that Mr. N. Bloomfield's poems display acuteness of remark, and delicacy of sentiment, combined with much strength, and considerable selection of diction, few will deny. The *Pæan to Gunpowder* would alone prove both his power of language, and the fertility of his imagination ; and the following extract presents him to us in the still higher character of a bold and vivid painter. Describing the field after a battle, he says,

Now here and there, about the horrid field,
Striding across the dying and the dead,
Stalks up a man, by strength superior,
Or skill and prowess in the arduous fight,
Preserved alive : — fainting he looks around ;
Fearing pursuit — not caring to pursue.
The supplicating voice of bitterest moans,
Contortions of excruciating pain,
The shriek of torture, and the groan of death,
Surround him ; — and as Night her mantle
 spreads,
To veil the horrors of the mourning field,
With cautious step shaping his devious way,
He seeks a covert where to hide and rest :
At every leaf that rustles in the breeze,
Starting, he grasps his sword ; and every nerve
Is ready strain'd, for combat or for flight.

P. 12. *Essay on War.*

If Mr. Bloomfield had written nothing besides the *Elegy on the Enclosure of Honington Green*, he would have had a right to be considered as a poet of no mean excellence. The heart which can read passages like the following, without a sympathetic emotion, must be dead to every feeling of sensibility : —

STANZA VI.

The proud city's gay wealthy train,
Who nought but refinement adore,
May wonder to hear me complain
That Honington Green is no more ;

But if to the church you e'er went,
 If you knew what the village has been,
 You will sympathise while I lament
 The enclosure of Honington Green.

VII.

That no more upon Honington Green
 Dwells the matron whom most I revere,
 If by pert Observation unseen
 I e'en now could indulge a fond tear.
 Ere her bright morn of life was o'ercast,
 When my senses first woke to the scene,
 Some short happy hours she had past
 On the margin of Honington Green.

VIII.

Her parents with plenty were blest,
 And num'rous her children and young,
 Youth's blossoms her cheek yet possest,
 And melody woke when she sung :
 A widow so youthful to leave,
 (Early closed the blest days he had seen,)
 My father was laid in his grave,
 In the church-yard on Honington Green.

* * * * *

XXI.

Dear to me was the wild thorny hill,
 And dear the brown heath's sober scene ;
 And youth shall find happiness still,
 Though he rove not on common or green.

* * * * *

XXII.

So happily flexile man's make,
 So pliantly docile his mind,
 Surrounding impressions we take,
 And bliss in each circumstance find.
 The youths of a more polish'd age
 Shall not wish these rude commons to see ;
 To the bird that's inured to the cage
 It would not be bliss to be free.

There is a sweet and tender melancholy pervades the *elegiac-ballad* efforts of Mr. Bloomfield, which has the most indescribable effects on the heart. Were the versification a little more polished, in some instances, they would be read with unmixed delight. It is to be hoped that he will cultivate this engaging species of composition, and (if I may venture to throw out the hint), if judgment may be formed from the poems he has published, he would excel in sacred poetry. Most heartily do I recommend the lyre of David to this engaging bard. Divine topics have seldom been touched upon with success by our modern Muses: they afford a field in which he would have few competitors, and it is a field worthy of his abilities.

W.

MELANCHOLY HOURS.

(No. VII. *)

IF the situation of man in the present life, be considered in all its relations and dependencies, a striking inconsistency will be apparent to a very cursory observer. We have sure warrant for believing that our abode here is to form a comparatively insignificant part of our existence, and that on our conduct in this life will depend the happiness of the life to come; yet our actions daily give the lie to this proposition, inasmuch as we commonly act like men who have no thought but for the present scene, and to whom the grave is the

* My predecessor, the Spectator, considering that the seventh part of our time is set apart for religious purposes, devoted every seventh lucubration to matters connected with Christianity, and the severer part of morals. I trust none of my readers will regret that, in this instance, I follow so good an example.

boundary of anticipation. But this is not the only paradox which humanity furnishes to the eye of a thinking man. It is very generally the case, that we spend our whole lives in the pursuit of objects, which common experience informs us are not capable of conferring that pleasure and satisfaction which we expect from their enjoyment. Our views are uniformly directed to one point:—*happiness*, in whatever garb it be clad, and under whatever figure shadowed, is the great aim of the busy multitudes, whom we behold toiling through the vale of life, in such an infinite diversity of occupation, and disparity of views. But the misfortune is, that we seek for Happiness where she is not to be found, and the cause of wonder, that the experience of ages should not have guarded us against so fatal and so universal an error.

It would be an amusing speculation to consider the various points after which our fellow-mortals are incessantly straining, and in the possession of which they have placed that imaginary chief good which we are all doomed to covet, but which, perhaps, none of us, in this sublunary state, can attain. At present, however, we are led to considerations of a more important nature. We turn from the inconsistencies observable in the prosecution of our subordinate pursuits, from the partial follies of individuals, to the general delusion which seems to envelope the whole human race:—the delusion under whose influence they lose sight of the chief end of their being, and cut down the sphere of their hopes and enjoyments to a few rolling years, and that, too, in a scene where they know there is neither perfect fruition nor permanent delight.

The faculty of contemplating mankind in the abstract, apart from those prepossessions which, both by nature and the power of habitual associations, would intervene to cloud our view, is only to be obtained by a life of virtue and constant meditation, by temperance, and purity of thought. Whenever it is attained, it must greatly tend to correct our motives—to simplify our desires—and to excite a

spirit of contentment and pious resignation. We then, at length, are enabled to contemplate our being in all its bearings, and in its full extent, and the result is, that superiority to common views, and indifference to the things of this life, which should be the fruit of all *true* philosophy, and which, therefore, are the more peculiar fruits of that system of philosophy which is called the Christian.

To a mind thus sublimed, the great mass of mankind will appear like men led astray by the workings of wild and distempered imaginations — visionaries, who are wandering after the phantoms of their own teeming brains ; and their anxious solicitude for mere matters of worldly accommodation and ease will seem more like the effects of insanity than of prudent foresight, as they are esteemed. To the awful importance of futurity he will observe them utterly insensible : and he will see with astonishment the few allotted years of human life wasted in providing abundance they will never enjoy, while the eternity they are placed here to prepare for, scarcely employs a moment's consideration. And yet the mass of these poor wanderers in the ways of error, have the light of truth shining on their very foreheads. They have the revelation of Almighty God himself, to declare to them the folly of worldly cares, and the necessity for providing for a future state of existence. They know by the experience of every preceding generation, that a very small portion of joy is allowed to the poor sojourners in this vale of tears, and that, too, embittered with much pain and fear ; and yet every one is willing to flatter himself that he shall fare better than his predecessor in the same path, and that happiness will smile on him, which hath frowned on all his progenitors.

Still it would be wrong to deny the human race all claim to temporal felicity. There may be comparative although very little positive happiness : — whoever is more exempt from the cares of the world and the calamities incident to humanity — whoever enjoys more contentment of mind, and is more re-

signed to the dispensations of Divine Providence — in a word, whoever possesses more of the true spirit of Christianity than his neighbours, is comparatively happy. But the number of these, it is to be feared, is very small. Were all men equally enlightened by the illuminations of truth, as emanating from the Spirit of Jehovah himself, they would all concur in the pursuit of virtuous ends by virtuous means — as there would be no vice, there would be very little infelicity. Every pain would be met with fortitude, every affliction with resignation. We should then all look back to the past with complacency, and to the future with hope. Even this unstable state of being would have many exquisite enjoyments — the principal of which would be the anticipation of that approaching state of beatitude to which we might then look with confidence, through the medium of that atonement of which we should be partakers, and our acceptance, by virtue of which, would be sealed by that purity of mind of which human nature is, *of itself*, incapable. But it is from the mistakes and miscalculations of mankind, to which their fallen natures are continually prone, that arises that flood of misery which overwhelms the whole race, and resounds wherever the footsteps of man have penetrated. It is the lamentable error of placing happiness in vicious indulgences, or thinking to pursue it by vicious means. It is the blind folly of sacrificing the welfare of the future to the opportunity of immediate guilty gratification, which destroys the harmony of society, and poisons the peace, not only of the immediate procreators of the errors — not only of the identical actors of the vices themselves, but of all those of their fellows who fall within the reach of their influence or example, or who are in any wise connected with them by the ties of blood.

I would therefore exhort you earnestly — you who are yet unskilled in the ways of the world — to beware on what object you concentrate your hopes. Pleasures may allure — pride or ambition may stimulate; but their fruits are hollow and deceitful,

and they afford no sure, no solid satisfaction. You are placed on the earth in the state of probation—your continuance here will be, at the longest, a very short period; and when you are called from hence, you plunge into an eternity, the completion of which will be in correspondence to your past life—unutterably happy or inconceivably miserable. Your fate will probably depend on your early pursuits—it will be these which will give the turn to your character and to your pleasures. I beseech you, therefore, with a meek and lowly spirit, to read the pages of that Book which the wisest and best of men have acknowledged to be the word of God; you will there find a rule of moral conduct, such as the world never had any idea of before its divulgation. If you covet earthly happiness, it is only to be found in the path you will find there laid down; and I can confidently promise you, in a life of simplicity and purity, a life passed in accordance with the Divine word, such substantial bliss, such unruffled peace, as is no where else to be found. All other schemes of earthly pleasure are fleeting and unsatisfactory. They all entail upon them repentance and bitterness of thought. This alone endureth for ever—this alone embraces equally the present and the future—this alone can arm a man against every calamity—can alone shed the balm of peace over that scene of life when pleasures have lost their zest, and the mind can no longer look forward to the dark and mysterious future. Above all, beware of the ignis fatuus of false philosophy: that must be a very defective system of ethics which will not bear a man through the most trying stage of his existence, and I know of none that will do it but the Christian.

W.

MELANCHOLY HOURS.

(No. VIII.)

· "Οστις λόγους γὰρ παρακαταθήκην ὡς λαβὼν
Εξείπων, ἀδικός, ἐστίν, ἢ ἀνερατῆς ἔργων.

————— ἴσως δέ γ' εἰσιν ἀμφοτέρω καὶ κακοί.

ANAXANDRIDES APUD SUIDAM.

MUCH has been said of late on the subject of *inscriptive writing*; and that, in my opinion, to very little purpose. Dr. Drake, when treating on this topic, is, for once, inconclusive! but his essay does credit to his discernment, however little it may honour him as a promulgator of the laws of criticism: the exquisite specimens it contains prove that the Doctor has a feeling of propriety and general excellence, although he may be unhappy in defining them. Boileau says, briefly, "*Les inscriptions doivent être simples, courtes, et familières.*" We have, however, many examples of this kind of writing in our language, which, although they possess none of these qualities, are esteemed excellent. Akenside's classic imitations are not at all *simple*, nothing *short*, and the very reverse of *familiar*; yet who can deny that they are beautiful, and in some instances appropriate? Southey's inscriptions are noble pieces; — for the opposite qualities of tenderness and dignity, sweetness of imagery and terseness of moral, unrivalled. They are perhaps wanting in propriety; and (which is the criterion) produce a much better effect in a book, than they would on a column or a cenotaph. There is a certain chaste and majestic gravity expected from the voice of tombs and monuments, which probably would displease in epitaphs never intended to be engraved, and inscriptions for obelisks which never existed.

When a man visits the tomb of an illustrious character, a spot remarkable for some memorable deed, or a scene connected by its natural sublimity with the higher feelings of the breast, he is in a

mood only for the nervous, the concise, and the impressive; and he will turn with disgust alike from the puerile conceits of the epigrammatist, and the tedious prolixity of the herald. It is a nice thing to address the mind in the workings of generous enthusiasm. As words are not capable of exciting such an effervescence of the sublimer affections, so they can do little towards increasing it. Their office is rather to point these feelings to a beneficial purpose, and by some noble sentiment or exalted moral, to impart to the mind that pleasure which results from warm emotions when connected with the virtuous and the generous.

In the composition of inscriptive pieces, great attention must be paid to local and topical propriety. The occasion, and the place, must not only regulate the tenour, but even the style of an inscription; for what, in one case, would be proper and agreeable, in another would be impertinent and disgusting. But these rules may always be taken for granted, that an inscription should be unaffected, and free from conceits: that no sentiment should be introduced of a trite or hackneyed nature; and that the design and the moral to be inculcated should be of sufficient importance to merit the reader's attention, and ensure his regard. Who would think of setting a stone up in the wilderness to tell the traveller what he knew before, or what, when he had learnt for the first time, was not worth the knowing? It would be equally absurd to call aside his attention to a simile or an epigrammatic point. Wit on a monument is like a jest from a judge, or a philosopher cutting capers. It is a severe mortification to meet with flippancy where we looked for solemnity, and meretricious elegance where the occasion led us to expect the unadorned majesty of truth.

That branch of inscriptive writing which commemorates the virtues of departed worth, or points out the ashes of men who yet live in the admiration of their posterity, is, of all others, the most interesting; and, if properly managed, the most useful.

It is not enough to proclaim to the observer that he is drawing near to the reliques of the deceased genius,—the occasion seems to provoke a few reflections. If these be *natural*, they will be in unison with the feelings of the reader; and, if they tend where they ought to tend, they will leave him better than they found him. But these reflections must not be too much prolonged. They must rather be hints than dissertations. It is sufficient to start the idea, and the imagination of the reader will pursue the train to much more advantage than the writer could do by words.

Panegyric is seldom judicious in the epithets on *public characters*; for, if it be deserved, it cannot need publication; and if it be exaggerated, it will only serve to excite ridicule. When employed in memorizing the retired virtues of domestic life, and qualities which, though they only served to cheer the little circle of privacy, still deserved, from their unfrequency, to triumph, at least for a while, over the power of the grave, it may be interesting and salutary in its effects. To this purpose, however, it is rarely employed. An epitaph-book will seldom supply the exigencies of character: and men of talents are not always, even in these favoured times, at hand to eternize the virtues of private life.

The following epitaph, by Mr. Hayley, is inscribed on a monument to the memory of Cowper, in the church of *East Dereham*:—

“ Ye who with warmth the public triumph feel
Of talents dignified by sacred zeal,
Here to Devotion’s bard devoutly just,
Pay your fond tribute due to Cowper’s dust!
England, exulting in his spotless fame,
Ranks with her dearest sons his fav’rite name:
Sense, Fancy, Wit, conspire not all to raise
So clear a title to Affection’s praise:
His highest honours to the heart belong:
His virtues form’d the magic of his song.”

"This epitaph," says a periodical critic*, "is simply elegant, and appropriately just." I regard this sentence as peculiarly unfortunate; for the epitaph seems to me to be *elegant* without *simplicity*, and *just* without *propriety*. No one will deny that it is correctly written, and that it is not destitute of grace; but in what consists its simplicity I am at a loss to imagine. The initial address is laboured and circumlocutory. There is something artificial rather than otherwise in the personification of England; and her ranking the poet's name "with her dearest sons," instead of with *those of* her dearest sons, is like ranking poor John Doe with a proper *bonâ fide* son of Adam, in a writ of arrest. Sense, Fancy, and Wit, "raising a title," and that to "Affection's praise," is not very simple, and not over intelligible. Again, the epitaph is just because it is strictly true; but it is by no means, therefore, appropriate. Who that would turn aside to visit the ashes of Cowper would need to be told that England ranks him with her favourite sons, and that sense, fancy, and wit, were not his greatest honours, for that his virtues formed the magic of his song? or who, hearing this, would be the better for the information? Had Mr. Hayley been employed in the monumental praises of a private man, this might have been excusable; but speaking of such a man as Cowper, it is idle. This epitaph is not appropriate, therefore; and we have shown that it is not remarkable for simplicity. Perhaps the respectable critics themselves may not feel inclined to dispute this point very tenaciously. Epithets are very convenient little things for rounding off a period; and it will not be the first time that truth has been sacrificed to verbosity and antithesis.

To measure lances with Hayley may be esteemed presumptuous; but probably the following, although much inferior as a composition, would have had more effect than his polished and harmonious lines:—

* The Monthly Reviewer.

INSCRIPTION FOR A MONUMENT

TO THE
MEMORY OF COWPER.

READER! if with no vulgar sympathy
Thou view'st the wreck of genius and of worth,
Stay thou thy footsteps near this hallow'd spot.
Here Cowper rests. Although renown have made
His name familiar to thine ear, this stone
May tell thee that his virtues were above
The common portion: — that the voice, now
hush'd

In death, was once serenely querulous
With pity's tones, and in the ear of woe
Spoke music. Now forgetful at thy feet
His tired head presses on its last long rest,
Still tenant of the tomb; — and on the cheek,
Once warm with animation's lambent flush,
Sits the pale image of unmark'd decay.
Yet mourn not. He had chosen the better part;
And these sad garments of mortality
Put off, we trust that to a happier land
He went, a light and gladsome passenger.
Sigh'st thou for honours, reader? Call to mind
That glory's voice is impotent to pierce
The silence of the tomb! but virtue blooms
Ev'n on the wreck of life, and mounts the skies!
So gird thy loins with lowliness, and walk
With Cowper on the pilgrimage of Christ.

This inscription is faulty from its length; but if a painter cannot get the requisite effect at one stroke, he must do it by many. The laconic style of epitaphs is the most difficult to be managed of any, inasmuch as most is expected from it. A sentence standing alone on a tomb, or a monument, is expected to contain something particularly striking; and when this expectation is disappointed, the reader feels like a man who, having been promised

an excellent joke, is treated with a stale conceit or a vapid pun. The best specimen of this kind, which I am acquainted with, is that on a French General: —

"Sicte, Vintor; Heroem calcas!"
Stop, Traveller; thou treadest on a Hero!

W.

MELANCHOLY HOURS.

(No. IX.)

Scires è sanguine notes.

Ovip.

It is common for busy and active men to behold the occupations of the retired and contemplative person with contempt. They consider his speculations as idle and unproductive: as they participate in none of his feelings, they are strangers to his motives, his views, and his delights. They behold him elaborately employed on what they conceive forwards none of the interests of life, contributes to none of its gratifications, removes none of its inconveniences: they conclude, therefore, that he is led away by the delusions of futile philosophy; that he labours for no good, and lives to no end. Of the various frames of mind which they observe in him, no one seems to predominate more, and none appears to them more absurd, than sadness; which seems, in some degree, to pervade all his views, and shed a solemn tinge over all his thoughts. Sadness, arising from no personal grief, and connected with no individual concern, they regard as moon-struck melancholy, the effect of a mind overcast with constitutional gloom, and diseased with habits of vain and fanciful speculation. — "We can share with the sorrows of the unfortunate," say they; "but this monastic spleen merits only our

derision: it tends to no beneficial purpose, it benefits neither its possessor nor society." Those who have thought a little more on this subject than the gay and busy crowd, will draw conclusions of a different nature. That there is a sadness, springing from the noblest and purest sources, a sadness friendly to the human heart, and, by direct consequence, to human nature in general, is a truth which a little illustration will render tolerably clear, and which, when understood in its full force, may probably convert contempt and ridicule into respect.

I set out, then, with the proposition, that the man who thinks deeply, especially if his reading be extensive, will, unless his heart be very cold and very light, become habituated to a pensive, or, with more propriety, a mournful cast of thought. This will arise from two more particular sources — from the view of human nature in general, as demonstrated by the experience both of past and present times, and from the contemplation of individual instances of human depravity and of human suffering. The first of these is, indeed, the last in the order of time; for his general views of humanity are in a manner consequential, or resulting from the special; but I have inverted that order for the sake of perspicuity.

Of those who have occasionally thought on these subjects, I may, with perfect assurance of their reply, enquire what have been their sensations when they have, for a moment, attained a more enlarged and capacious notion of the state of man in all its bearings and dependencies. They have found, and the profoundest philosophers have done no more, that they are enveloped in mystery; and that the mystery of man's situation is not without alarming and fearful circumstances. They have discovered that all they know of themselves is that they live; but that from whence they came, or whither they are going, is by Nature altogether hidden; that impenetrable gloom surrounds them on every side, and that they even hold their mor-

row on the credit of to-day, when it is, in fact, buried in the vague and indistinct gulf of the ages to come!—These are reflections deeply interesting, and lead to others so awful, that many gladly shut their eyes on the giddy and unfathomable depths which seem to stretch before them. The meditative man, however, endeavours to pursue them to the farthest stretch of the reasoning powers, and to enlarge his conceptions of the mysteries of his own existence; and the more he learns, and the deeper he penetrates, the more cause does he find for being serious, and the more inducements to be continually thoughtful.

If, again, we turn from the condition of mortal existence, considered in the abstract, to the qualities and characters of man, and his condition in a state of society, we see things perhaps equally strange and infinitely more affecting. — In the economy of creation, we perceive nothing inconsistent with the power of an all-wise and all-merciful God. A perfect harmony runs through all the parts of the universe. Plato's *syrens* sing not only from the planetary octave, but through all the minutest divisions of the stupendous whole; order, beauty, and perfection, the traces of the great Architect, glow through every particle of his work. At man, however, we stop: there is one exception. The harmony of order ceases; and vice and misery disturb the beautiful consistency of creation, and bring us first acquainted with positive evil. We behold man carried irresistibly away by corrupt principles and vicious inclinations, indulging in propensities destructive as well to themselves as to those around them; the stronger oppressing the weaker, and the bad persecuting the good! We see the depraved in prosperity, the virtuous in adversity, the guilty unpunished, the deserving overwhelmed with unprovoked misfortunes. From hence we are tempted to think, that He whose arm holds the planets in their course, and directs the comets along their eccentric orbits, ceases to exercise his providence over the affairs of mankind, and leaves

them to be governed and directed by the impulses of a corrupt heart, or the blind workings of chance alone. Yet this is inconsistent both with the wisdom and the goodness of the Deity. If God permit evil, he causes it ; the difference is casuistical. We are led, therefore, to conclude, that it was not always thus : that man was created in a far-different and far happier condition ; but that, by some means or other, he has forfeited the protection of his Maker. Here then is a mystery. The ancients, led by reasonings alone, perceived it with amazement ; but did not solve the problem. They attempted some explanation of it by the lame fiction of a golden age and its cession ; where, by a circular mode of reasoning, they attribute the introduction of vice to their gods having deserted the earth, and the desertion of the gods to the introduction of vice.* This, however, was the logic of the poets ; the philosophers disregarded the fable, but did not dispute the fact it was intended to account for. They often hint at human degeneracy, and some unknown curse hanging over our being, and even coming into the world along with us. Pliny, in the preface to his seventh book, has this remarkable passage : — “ The animal about to rule over the rest of created animals, lies weeping, bound hand and foot, making his first entrance upon life with sharp pangs, and *this, for no other crime than that he is born man.*” — Cicero in a

* Και τότε δὲ τρεῖς Ὀλυμπεῖν ἀπὸ χθονὸς ἐκνεόεικτε,
 Λιυκίῃσιν φασίισσι καλὴν ἑαμένην χεῖρα καλὴν,
 Ἀθανάτου μετὰ φύλον ἔσθ', ἐχέλουτ' ἀνδρωτὸς
 Αἰδώς καὶ Νέμεσις· τὰ δὲ λαιβέται αἰγρία λυγρὰ
 ὄνηται ἀνδρωταῖσι, κακεὺ δ' ὥς ἐσσεται ἀλκή.

Herod. Opera et Dora. Lib. I. l. 125.

Victa jacet Pietas ; et Virgo crede madentes,
 Ultima cœlestium terras Astræa reliquit.

Œdip. Metamorph. l. 1. Fab. 4.

Paulatim deinde ad Superos Astræa recessit,
 Hac comite atque dux pariter fugere sorores.

Juvenal Sat. vi. l. 10.

passage, for the preservation of which we are indebted to St. Augustine, gives a yet stronger idea of an existing degeneracy in human nature : — “ Man,” says he, “ comes into existence, not as from the hands of a mother, but of a step-dame nature, with a body feeble naked, and fragile, and a mind exposed to anxiety and care, abject in fear, unmeet for labour, prone to licentiousness, in which, however, there still dwell some sparks of the divine mind, though obscured, and, as it were, in ruins.” And, in another place, he intimates it as a current opinion, that man comes into the world as into a state of punishment expiatory of crimes committed in some previous stage of existence, of which we now retain no recollection.

From these proofs, and from daily observation and experience, there is every ground for concluding that man is in a state of misery and depravity quite inconsistent with the happiness for which, by a benevolent God, he must have been created. We see glaring marks of this in our own times. Prejudice alone blinds us to the absurdity and the horror of those systematic murders which go by the name of wars, where man falls on man, brother slaughters brother; where death, in every variety of horror, preys “ *on the finely fibred human frame* ; ” and where the cry of the widow and the orphan rise up to heaven long after the thunder of the fight and the clang of arms have ceased, and the bones of sons, brothers, and husbands slain are grown white on the field. Customs like these vouch, with most miraculous organs, for the depravity of the human heart; and these are not the most mournful of those considerations which present themselves to the mind of the thinking man.

Private life is equally fertile in calamitous perversion of reason, and extreme accumulation of misery. On the one hand, we see a large proportion of men sedulously employed in the eduction of their own ruin, pursuing vice in all its varieties, and sacrificing the peace and happiness of the innocent and unoffending to their own brutal gratifications ;

and, on the other, pain, misfortune, and misery, overwhelming alike the good and the bad, the provident and the improvident. But too general a view would distract our attention: let the reader pardon me if I suddenly draw him away from the survey of the crowds of life to a few detached scenes. We will select a single picture at random. The character is common.

Behold that beautiful female, who is rallying a well-dressed young man with so much gaiety and humour. Did you ever see so lovely a countenance? There is an expression of vivacity in her fine dark eye which quite captivates one; and her smile, were it a little less bold, would be bewitching. How gay and careless she seems! One would suppose she had a very light and happy heart. Alas! how appearances deceive! This gaiety is all feigned. It is her business to please, and beneath a fair and painted outside she conceals an inquiet and forlorn breast. When she was yet very young, an engaging but dissolute young man took advantage of her simplicity, and of the affection with which he had inspired her, to betray her virtue. At first her infamy cost her many tears; but habit wore away this remorse, leaving only a kind of indistinct regret; and as she fondly loved her betrayer, she experienced, at times, a mingled pleasure even in this abandoned situation. But this was soon over. Her lover, on pretence of a journey into the country, left her for ever. She soon afterwards heard of his marriage, with an agony of grief which few can adequately conceive, and none describe. The calls of want, however, soon subdued the more distracting ebullitions of anguish. She had no choice left; all the gates of virtue were shut upon her, and though she really abhorred the course, she was obliged to betake herself to vice for support. Her next keeper possessed her person without her heart. She has since passed through several hands, and has found, by bitter experience, that the vicious, on whose generosity she is thrown, are devoid of all feeling but that of self-gratification, and that even the wages of

prostitution are reluctantly and grudgingly paid. She now looks on all men as sharpers. She smiles but to entangle and destroy, and while she stimulates fondness, is intent only on the extorting of that, at best poor pittance, which her necessities loudly demand. Thoughtless as she may seem, she is not without an idea of her forlorn and wretched situation, and she looks only to sudden death as her refuge, against that time when her charms shall cease to allure the eye of incontinence, when even the lowest haunts of infamy shall be shut against her, and without a friend or a hope, she must sink under the pressure of want and disease.

But we will now shift the scene a little, and select another object. Behold yon poor weary wretch, who with a child wrapt in her arms with difficulty drags along the road. The man with a knapsack, who is walking before her, is her husband, and is marching to join his regiment. He has been spending, at a dram-shop in the town they have just left, the supply which the pale and weak appearance of his wife proclaims was necessary for her sustenance. He is now half-drunk, and is venting the artificial spirits which intoxication excites in the abuse of his weary help-mate behind him. She seems to listen to his reproaches in patient silence. Her face will tell you more than many words, as, with a wan and meaning look, she surveys the little wretch who is asleep on her arms. The turbulent brutality of the man excites no attention: she is pondering on the future chance of life, and the probable lot of her heedless little one.

One other picture, and I have done. The man pacing with a slow step and languid aspect over yon prison-court, was once a fine dashing fellow, the admiration of the ladies, and the envy of the men. He is the only representative of a once respectable family, and is brought to this situation by unlimited indulgence at that time when the check is most necessary. He began to figure in genteel life at an early age. His misjudging mother, to whose sole care he was left, thinking no alliance

too good for her darling, cheerfully supplied his extravagance, under the idea that it would not last long, and that it would enable him to shine in those circles where she wished him to rise. But he soon found that habits of prodigality, once well gained, are never eradicated. His fortune, though genteel, was not adequate to such habits of expense. His unhappy parent lived to see him make a degrading alliance, and come in danger of a gaol, and then died of a broken heart. His affairs soon wound themselves up. His debts were enormous, and he had nothing to pay them with. He has now been in that prison many years; and since he is excluded from the benefit of an insolvency act, he has made up his mind to the idea of ending his days there. His wife, whose beauty had decoyed him, since she found he could not support her, deserted him for those who could, leaving him without friend or companion, to pace, with measured steps, over the court of a country gaol, and endeavour to beguile the lassitude of imprisonment, by thinking on the days that are gone, or counting the squares in his grated window in every possible direction, backwards, forwards, and across, till he sighs to find the sum always the same, and that the more anxiously we strive to beguile the moments in their course, the more sluggishly they travel.

If these are accurate pictures of some of the varieties of human suffering, and if such pictures are common even to triteness, what conclusions must we draw as to the condition of man in general, and what must be the prevailing frame of mind of him who meditates much on these subjects, and who, unbracing the whole tissue of causes and effects, sees Misery invariably the offspring of Vice, and Vice existing in hostility to the intentions and wishes of God? Let the meditative man turn where he will, he finds traces of the depraved state of Nature, and her consequent misery. History presents him with little but murder, treachery, and crimes of every description. Biography only strengthens the view, by concentrating it. The philosophers remind

him of the existence of evil, by their lessons how to avoid or endure it; and the very poets themselves afford him pleasure, not unconnected with regret, as, either by contrast, exemplification, or deduction, they bring the world and its circumstances before his eyes.

That such an one, then, is prone to sadness, who will wonder? If such meditations are beneficial, who will blame them? The discovery of evil naturally leads us to contribute our mite towards the alleviation of the wretchedness it introduces. While we lament vice, we learn to shun it ourselves, and to endeavour, if possible, to arrest its progress in those around us; and in the course of these high and lofty speculations, we are insensibly led to think humbly of ourselves, and to lift up our thoughts to Him who is alone the fountain of all perfection and the source of all good.

W.

MELANCHOLY HOURS.

(No. X.)

*La rime est une esclave, et ne doit qu'obéir
 Boileau, L'Art Poétique.*

EXPERIMENTS in versification have not often been successful. Sir Philip Sidney, with all his genius, great it undoubtedly was, could not impart grace to his hexameters, or fluency to his Sapphics. Spenser's stanza was new, but his verse was familiar to the ear; and though his rhymes were frequent even to satiety, he seems to have avoided the awkwardness of novelty, and the difficulty of unpractised metres. Donne had not music enough to render his broken rhyming couplets sufferable, and neither his wit nor his pointed satire were sufficient to rescue him from that neglect which his uncouth and rugged versification speedily superinduced.

In our times, Mr. Southey has given grace and melody to some of the Latin and Greek measures, and Mr. Bowles has written rhyming heroics, wherein the sense is transmitted from couplet to couplet, and the pauses are varied with all the freedom of blank verse, without exciting any sensation of ruggedness, or offending the nicest ear. But these are minor efforts: the former of these exquisite poets has taken a yet wider range, and in his "Thalaba the Destroyer" has spurned at all the received laws of metre, and framed a fabric of verse altogether his own.

An innovation so bold as that of Mr. Southey was sure to meet with disapprobation and ridicule. The world naturally looks with suspicion on systems which contradict established principles, and refuse to quadrate with habits which, as they have been used to, men are apt to think cannot be improved upon. The opposition which has been made to the metre of *Thalaba* is, therefore, not so much to be imputed to its want of harmony, as to the operation of existing prejudices; and it is fair to conclude, that, as these prejudices are softened by usage, and the strangeness of novelty wears off, the peculiar features of this lyrical frame of verse will be more candidly appreciated, and its merits more unreservedly acknowledged.

Whoever is conversant with the writings of this author will have observed and admired that greatness of mind, and comprehension of intellect, by which he is enabled, on all occasions, to throw off the shackles of habit and prepossession. Southey never treads in the beaten track: his thoughts, while they are those of nature, carry that cast of originality which is the stamp and testimony of genius. He views things through a peculiar phasis, and while he has the feelings of a man, they are those of a man almost abstracted from mortality, and reflecting on, and painting the scenes of life, as if he were a mere spectator, uninfluenced by his own connection with the objects he surveys. To this faculty of bold discrimination I attribute many

of Mr. Southey's peculiarities as a poet. He never seems to enquire how other men would treat a subject, or what may happen to be the usage of the times; but, filled with that strong sense of fitness, which is the result of bold and unshackled thought, he fearlessly pursues that course which his own sense of propriety points out.

It is very evident to me, and I should conceive to all who consider the subject attentively, that the structure of verse, which Mr. Southey has promulgated in his *Thalaba*, was neither adopted rashly, nor from any vain emulation of originality. As the poet himself happily observes, "*It is the arabesque ornament of an Arabian tale.*" No one would wish to see the Joan of Arc in such a garb; but the wild freedom of the versification of *Thalaba* accords well with the romantic wildness of the story; and I do not hesitate to say, that, had any other known measure been adopted, the poem would have been deprived of half its beauty, and all its propriety. In blank verse it would have been absurd; in rhyme, insipid. The lyrical manner is admirably adapted to the sudden transitions and rapid connections of an Arabian tale, while its variety precludes tedium, and its full, because unshackled, cadence satisfies the ear with legitimate harmony. At first, indeed, the verse may appear uncouth, because it is new to the ear; but I defy any man, who has any feeling of melody, to peruse the whole poem without paying tribute to the sweetness of its flow, and the gracefulness of its modulations.

In judging of this extraordinary poem, we should consider it as a genuine lyric production, — we should conceive it as recited to the harp, in times when such relations carried nothing incredible with them. Carrying this idea along with us, the admirable art of the poet will strike us with tenfold conviction; the abrupt sublimity of his transitions, the sublime simplicity of his manner, and the delicate touches by which he connects the various parts of his narrative, will then be more strongly observable, and we shall, in particular, remark the

uncommon felicity with which he has adapted his versification ; and, in the midst of the wildest irregularity, left nothing to shock the ear, or offend the judgment.

W.

MELANCHOLY HOURS.

(No. XI.)

THE PROGRESS OF KNOWLEDGE.

Few histories would be more worthy of attention than that of the progress of knowledge, from its first dawn to the time of its meridian splendour, among the ancient Greeks. Unfortunately, however, the precautions which, in this early period, were almost generally taken to confine all knowledge to a particular branch of men, and when the Greeks began to contend for the palm among learned nations, their backwardness to acknowledge the sources from whence they derived the first principles of their philosophy, have served to wrap this interesting subject in almost impenetrable obscurity. Few vestiges, except the Egyptian hieroglyphics, now remain of the learning of the more ancient world. Of the two millions of verses said to have been written by the Chaldean Zoroaster *, we have no relics ; and the oracles which go under his name are pretty generally acknowledged to be spurious.

The Greeks unquestionably derived their philosophy from the Egyptians and Chaldeans. Both Pythagoras and Plato had visited those countries for the advantage of learning ; and if we may credit the received accounts of the former of these illustrious sages, he was regularly initiated in the schools of Egypt, during the period of twenty-two years that he resided in that country, and became the envy and admiration of the Egyptians themselves. Of

* Pliny.

the Pythagorean doctrines we have some accounts remaining; and nothing is wanting to render the systems of Platonism complete and intelligible. In the dogmas of these philosophers, therefore, we may be able to trace the learning of these primitive nations, though our conclusions must be cautiously drawn, and much must be allowed to the active intelligence of two Greeks. Ovid's short summary of the philosophy of Pythagoras deserves attention.

Isque, licet cœli regione remotos
 Mente Deos adiit : et quæ natura negabat
 Visibus humanis oculis ea pectoris hausit.
 Cumque animo et vigili perspexerat omnia curâ ;
 In medium discenda dabat : cœtumque silentium,
 Dictaque mirantum, magni primordia mundi
 Et rerum causas et quid natura docebat,
 Quid Deus : unde nives : quæ fulminis esset origo
 Jupiter an venti, discussa nube tonarent,
 Quid quateret terras : quâ sidera lege mearent
 Et quodcumque latet.

If we are to credit this account, and it is corroborated by many other testimonies, Pythagoras searched deeply into natural causes. Some have imagined, and strongly asserted, that his central fire was figurative of the sun, and, therefore, that he had an idea of its real situation; but this opinion, so generally adopted, may be combated with some degree of reason. I should be inclined to think Pythagoras gained his idea of the great central, vivifying, and creative fire from the Chaldeans, and that, therefore, it was the representative not of the sun but of the Deity. Zoroaster taught that there was one God, Eternal, the Father of the Universe: he assimilated the Deity to light, and applied to him the names of Light, Beams, and Splendour. The Magi, corrupting this representation of the Supreme Being, and, taking literally what was meant as an allegory or symbol, supposed that God was this central fire, the source of heat, light, and life, residing in the centre of the universe; and

from hence they introduced among the Chaldeans the worship of fire. That Pythagoras was tainted with this superstition is well known. On the testimony of Plutarch, his disciples held, that in the midst of the world is fire, or in the midst of the four elements is the fiery globe of Unity, or Monad—the procreative, nutritive, and excitative power. The sacred fire of Vesta, among the Greeks and Latins, was a remain of this doctrine.

As the limits of this paper will not allow me to take in all the branches of this subject, I shall confine my attention to the opinions held by these early nations of the nature of the Godhead.

Amidst the corruptions introduced by the Magi, we may discern, with tolerable certainty, that Zoroaster taught the worship of the one true God; and Thales, Pythagoras, and Plato, who had all been instituted in the mysteries of the Chaldeans, taught the same doctrine. These philosophers likewise asserted the omnipotence and eternity of God; and that he was the creator of all things, and the governor of the universe. Plato decisively supported the doctrines of future rewards and punishments; and Pythagoras, struck with the idea of the omnipresence of the Deity, defined him as *animus per universas mundi partes omnemque naturam commens atque diffusus, ex quo omnia quæ nascuntur animalia vitam capiunt*. *—An intelligence moving upon, and diffused over all the parts of the universe, and all nature, from which all animals derive their existence. As for the swarm of gods worshipped both in Egypt and Greece, it is evident they were only esteemed as inferior deities. In the time of Saint Paul, there was a temple at Athens inscribed to the unknown God: and Hesiod makes them younger than the earth and heaven.

Εἰς ἀρχῆς οὗς Γαῖα καὶ Οὐρανὸς εὐρύς ἐτιχτον

Οἱ τ' ἐκ τῶν γεγενῆσθαι θεοὶ δωτέρησιν ἐσών. THEOG.

* Lactantius Div. Inst. lib. cap. 5. etiam, Minucius Felix, "Pythagoræ Deus est animus per universam rerum naturam commens atque intentus, ex quo etiam animalium omnium vita capiatur."

If Pythagoras, and the other philosophers who succeeded him, paid honour to these gods, they either did it through fear of encountering ancient prejudices, or they reconciled it by recurring to the Demonology of their masters, the Chaldeans, who maintained the agency of good and bad demons, who presided over different things, and were distinguished into the powers of light and darkness, heat and cold. It is remarkable, too, that amongst all these people, whether Egyptians or Chaldeans, Greeks or Romans, as well as every other nation under the sun, sacrifices were made to the gods, in order to render them propitious to their wishes, or to expiate their offences — a fact which proves, that the conviction of the interference of the Deity in human affairs is universal; and, what is much more important, that this custom is primitive, and derived from the first inhabitants of the world.

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MELANCHOLY HOURS.

(No. XII.★)

WHILE the seat of empire was yet at Byzantium, and that city was the centre, not only of dominion, but of learning and politeness, a certain hermit had fixed his residence in a cell, on the banks of the Athyras, at the distance of about ten miles from the capital. The spot was retired, although so near the great city, and was protected, as well by woods and precipices as by the awful reverence with which, at that time, all ranks beheld the character of a recluse. Indeed, the poor old man, who tenanted the little hollow, at the summit of a crag, beneath which the Athyras rolls its impetuous torrent, was not famed for the severity of his penances, or the strictness of his mortifications. That he was either studious, or protracted his devotions to a late hour, was evident,

for his lamp was often seen to stream through the trees which shaded his dwelling, when accident called any of the peasants from their beds at unseasonable hours. Be this as it may, no miracles were imputed to him; the sick rarely came to petition for the benefit of his prayers, and, though some both loved him, and had good reason for loving him, yet many undervalued him for the want of that very austerity which the old man seemed most desirous to avoid.

It was evening, and the long shadows of the Thracian mountains were extending still farther and farther along the plains, when this old man was disturbed in his meditations by the approach of a stranger. "How far is it to Byzantium?" was the question put by the traveller. — "Not far to those who know the country," replied the hermit; "but a stranger would not easily find his way through the windings of these woods, and the intricacies of the plains beyond them. Do you see that blue mist which stretches along the bounding line of the horizon as far as the trees will permit the eye to trace it? That is the Propontis; and higher up on the left, the city of Constantinople rears its proud head above the waters. But I would dissuade thee, stranger, from pursuing thy journey farther to-night. Thou mayest rest in the village, which is half way down the hill; or, if thou wilt share my supper of roots, and put up with a bed of leaves, my cell is open to thee." — "I thank thee, father," replied the youth; "I am weary with my journey, and will accept thy proffered hospitality." They ascended the rock together. The hermit's cell was the work of nature. It penetrated far into the rock, and in the innermost recess was a little chapel, furnished with a crucifix, and a human skull, the objects of the hermit's nightly and daily contemplation, for neither of them received his adoration. That corruption had not as yet crept into the Christian church. The hermit now lighted up a fire of dry sticks (for the nights are very piercing in the regions about the Hellespont and the Bosphorus),

and then proceeded to prepare their vegetable meal. While he was thus employed, his young guest surveyed, with surprise, the dwelling which he was to inhabit for the night. A cold rock-hole on the bleak summit of one of the Thracian hills seemed to him a comfortless choice for a weak and solitary old man. The rude materials of his scanty furniture still more surprised him. A table fixed to the ground, a wooden bench, an earthen lamp, a number of rolls of papyrus and vellum, and a heap of leaves in a corner, the hermit's bed, were all his stock. "Is it possible," at length he exclaimed, "that you can tenant this comfortless cave, with these scanty accommodations, through choice? Go with me, old man, to Constantinople, and receive from me those conveniences which befit your years." "And what art thou going to do at Constantinople, my young friend," said the hermit, "for thy dialect bespeaks thee a native of more southern regions? Am I mistaken, art thou not an Athenian?"—"I am an Athenian," replied the youth, "by birth, but I hope I am not an Athenian in vice. I have left my degenerate birth-place in quest of happiness. I have learnt from my master, Speusippus, a genuine asserter of the much-belied doctrines of Epicurus, that as a future state is a mere phantom and vagary of the brain, it is the only true wisdom to enjoy life while we have it. But I have learnt from him, also, that virtue alone is true enjoyment. I am resolved, therefore, to enjoy life, and that too with virtue, as my companion and guide. My travels are begun with the design of discovering where I can best unite both objects: enjoyment the most exquisite, with virtue the most perfect. You, perhaps, may have reached the latter, my good father; the former you have certainly missed. To-morrow I shall continue my search. At Constantinople I shall laugh and sing with the gay, meditate with the sober, drink deeply of every unpolled pleasure, and taste all the fountains of wisdom and philosophy. I have heard much of the accomplishments of the women of Byzantium. With us,

females are mere household slaves ; here, I am told, they have *minds*. I almost promise myself that I shall marry and settle at Constantinople, where the loves and graces seem alone to reside, and where even the *women* have *minds*. My good father, how the wind roars about this aërial nest of yours, and here you sit during the long cold nights, all alone, cold and cheerless, when Constantinople is just at your feet, with all its joys, its comforts, and its elegancies. I perceive that the philosophers of our sect, who succeeded Epicurus, were right, when they taught that there might be virtue without enjoyment, and that virtue without enjoyment is not worth the having." The face of the youth kindled with animation as he spake these words, and he visibly enjoyed the consciousness of superior intelligence. The old man sighed, and was silent. As they ate their frugal supper, both parties seemed involved in deep thought. The young traveller was dreaming of the Byzantine women : his host seemed occupied with far different meditations. " So you are travelling to Constantinople in search of happiness ? " at length exclaimed the hermit : " I too have been a suitor of that divinity, and it may be of use to you to hear how I have fared. The history of my life will serve to fill up the interval before we retire to rest, and my experience may not prove altogether useless to one who is about to go the same journey which I have finished.

" These scanty hairs of mine were not always grey, nor these limbs decrepit : I was once, like thee, young, fresh, and vigorous, full of delightful dreams and gay anticipations. Life seemed a garden of sweets, a path of roses : and I thought I had but to choose in what way I would be happy. I will pass over the incidents of my boyhood, and come to my maturer years. I had scarcely seen twenty summers, when I formed one of those extravagant and ardent attachments of which youth is so susceptible. It happened, that, at that time, I bore arms under the Emperor Theodosius, in his

expedition against the Goths, who had over-run a part of Thrace. In our return from a successful campaign, we stayed some time in the Greek cities, which border on the Euxine. In one of these cities I became acquainted with a female, whose form was not more elegant than her mind was cultivated, and her heart untainted. I had done her family some trivial services, and her gratitude spoke too warmly to my intoxicated brain to leave any doubt on my mind that she loved me. The idea was too exquisitely pleasing to be soon dismissed. I sought every occasion of being with her. Her mild persuasive voice seemed like the music of heaven to my ears, after the toils and roughness of a soldier's life. I had a friend, too, whose converse, next to that of the dear object of my secret love, was most dear to me. He formed the third in all our meetings, and, beyond the enjoyment of the society of these two, I had not a wish. I had never yet spoken explicitly to my female friend, but I fondly hoped we understood each other. Why should I dwell on the subject? I was mistaken. My friend threw himself on my mercy. I found that he, not I, was the object of her affections. Young man, you may conceive, but I cannot describe what I felt, as I joined their hands. The stroke was severe, and, for a time, unfitted me for the duties of my station. I suffered the army to leave the place without accompanying it; and thus lost the rewards of my past services, and forfeited the favour of my sovereign. This was another source of anxiety and regret to me, as my mind recovered its wonted tone. But the mind of youth, however deeply it may feel for a while, eventually rises up from dejection, and regains its wonted elasticity. That vigour by which the spirit recovers itself from the depths of useless regret, and enters upon new prospects with its accustomed ardour, is only subdued by time. I now applied myself to the study of philosophy, under a Greek master, and all my ambition was directed towards letters. But ambition is not quite enough to fill a young man's heart. I still felt a void there, and

sighed as I reflected on the happiness of my friend. At the time when I visited the object of my first love, a young Christian woman, her frequent companion, had sometimes taken my attention. She was an Ionian by birth, and had all the softness and pensive intelligence which her country-women are said to possess when unvitiated by the corruptions so prevalent in that delightful region. You are no stranger to the contempt with which the Greeks then treated, and do still, in some places, treat the Christians. This young woman bore that contempt with a calmness which surprised me. There were then but few converts to that religion in those parts, and its profession was therefore more exposed to ridicule and persecution from its strangeness. Notwithstanding her religion, I thought I could love this interesting and amiable female, and, in spite of my former mistake, I had the vanity to imagine I was not indifferent to her. As our intimacy increased, I learnt, to my astonishment, that she regarded me as one involved in ignorance and error; and that, although she felt an affection for me, yet she would never become my wife, while I remained devoted to the religion of my ancestors. Piqued at this discovery, I received the books, which she now for the first time put into my hands, with pity and contempt. I expected to find them nothing but the repositories of a miserable and deluded superstition, more presuming than the mystical leaves of the Sibyls, or the obscure triads of Zoroaster. How was I mistaken! There was much which I could not at all comprehend; but, in the midst of this darkness, the effect of my ignorance, I discerned a system of morality, so exalted, so exquisitely pure, and so far removed from all I would have conceived of the most perfect virtue, that all the philosophy of the Grecian world seemed worse than dross in the comparison. My former learning had only served to teach me that something was wanting to complete the systems of philosophers. Here that invisible link was supplied, and I could even then observe a harmony

and consistency in the whole, which carried irresistible conviction to my mind. I will not enlarge on this subject. Christianity is not a mere set of opinions to be embraced by the understanding. It is the work of the heart as well as the head. Let it suffice to say, that, in time, I became a Christian, and the husband of Sapphira."

* * * *

AN UNFINISHED TRACT.

MY BRETHREN,

I THINK it more particularly proper, at a period which seems big with awful events, to make a solemn address to each of you singly, on a most important and weighty subject. I mean, the state of your minds with regard to religion.

The more pointed objects of this little book are such of you as it has pleased God to place in the lower classes of life. I do not mean to take up your attention for a very long time; all I entreat of you, is to turn aside, but for a few trifling moments, from the voice of folly, and the vain pursuits of this passing world, to listen to the voice of a monitor, who teaches those momentous topics, which are of infinitely more weight than the revolution of states and empires,—of all the busy pageants of the earth. Believe me, my brethren, the subject is most awful and solemn, and demands your undivided attention. Were I now about to state the case of a criminal on his trial for life or death, you would enter with the deepest interest into my discourse; you would weigh with anxious care all the favourable or unfavourable points of the statement; you would make your conjectures in breathless expectation, as to the probable event: and I am now going to address you on an affair of infinitely more concern; an affair, which treats not

of the fate of a mortal, but of everlasting life or everlasting death ; and that, too, of your own selves. You are all criminals, who must one day answer at the peril of your souls for your conduct here ; and it is on your conduct *here*, that I would exhort you ; and shall you turn a deaf ear to the representation of the dangers of your own states ? shall you listen with indifference to the voice which warns you of your fate ? God forbid ! I conjure you, my dear brethren, hear with attention the precepts which, drawing from the Gospel of Jesus Christ, I would impress on your minds ; write them in your hearts, and inscribe them on the tablets of your remembrance, that they may be a solace to you in sorrow and adversity ; a relief in pain and tribulation ; and, finally, a sweet and firm support, when you shall repose on the trying pillow of death.

Surely, I need not impress upon you the excellence and the truth of the Gospel. Most of you, I trust, believe in your Redeemer, though you slight and disregard his words. But some, I know too well, there are amongst you, who, deluded by the false, yet seemingly open, reasoning of wretched and ignorant infidels, in the pride of their hearts, affirm their contempt for the doctrines of Christianity. Such unhappy men *I leave to their God*, with the fervent prayer, that as his Spirit can alone rescue them from sure and everlasting death, he will vouchsafe to open their hearts and understandings to his truths, ere they fall into that gulf from which no repentance, no tears, no prayers, will ever deliver them ; “ where there is weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth.”

For you, who, believing in the Holy Scriptures, are hardened in indifference and careless wickedness, I shall *first* point out some of the strong calls you have to an earnest performance of the duties of Religion. I shall then show the happiness which will result to you from God's blessing upon you : and I shall then conclude, by exhorting you, at this moment in particular, to begin an immediate reformation in your lives, and denounce the dreadful

sentence of Almighty vengeance on such as shall be overtaken in their career of wickedness.

The Gospel of Christ presents itself to us under such pleasing appearances ; its lessons are so mild and delightful ; and its principles are so interesting, that were men once made sensible of its pleasures, their own inclinations would lead them ardently to long to share its comforts. Gratitude itself calls upon us night and day, with unwearied and continued anxiousness, to glorify him, who, for our sakes, bled a bitter sacrifice. Let us behold the state of man after the fall. Lost, debased, condemned, having the judgment of death denounced upon him : a poor worm in the scale of the universe, less than a grain of dust ; and let us reflect that to redeem this wretched insect from the penalties of his crime, the son of God himself assumed all the infirmities of human nature : that for him, he endured the most cruel and unrelenting of persecutions ; and, lastly, after passing a life, in which he was continually employed in doing good unto all, and receiving in return, every pang which malignity could inflict on human nature undergo ; that he died on the cross, a death the most miserable and dreadful that the imagination can conceive. Oh ! how black must be the ingratitude of that man, who can wilfully and unthinkingly cast away salvation purchased for him at a rate so dear ! What punishment must he deserve (for whom the Son of God himself died, as a means of salvation), who lightly resigns the dear privilege, and blindly rushes into the ways of error and sin ! My brethren, consider what Jesus Christ endured for your sakes. You may, perhaps, yourselves have tasted the bitter cup of calamity ; but he endured all your afflictions and troubles an hundred fold. Are you poor and lowly ? So was *He*. Are you persecuted and forlorn ? So was *He* unto death. Are you houseless and an outcast ? The Lord Jesus was a poor way-wanderer, without a pillow on which to lay his head. Are your prospects in the world gloomy and devoid of comfort ? So also were his. You can scarcely

name a suffering, or conceive a trial which Christ did not undergo, that we might partake of everlasting life. Behold him, to whom the whole universe owed its being, to whom angels and archangels ministered, whom the Cherubim and Seraphim obeyed, voluntarily exposing himself to all the weakness of the flesh. Behold the Son of God sleeping in the manger of an obscure inn ; survey him ushered into life and persecution while yet a defenceless infant, fleeing from the sword of murder into Bethlehem. Contemplate him afterwards, when arrived at manhood, going about doing good, and yet turning aside from the machinations of evil men, because his hour was not yet come. Surrounded with a few poor fishermen, the lowest among men, see him exposed to the most violent attempts of powerful men. You have all your sorrows ; but what are they, to what he endured, when for us he became man ? What can convey a more impressive idea of the sufferings of Jesus than the melancholy expression of Jesus, when a certain man said he would follow him wheresoever he went ? — “ The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head.”

* * * *

I am requested to state the reasons for my wishing to enter into the ministry. I will do it as briefly as I can.

Since the time I was awakened to a true sense of religion, I have always felt a strong desire to become useful in the church of Christ ; a desire which has increased daily, and which it has been my supplication might be from God. It is true, before I began to be solicitous about spiritual things, I had a wish to become a clergyman, but that was very different. I trust I may now say that I *would* be a minister, that I may do good ; and although I am

sensible of the awful importance of the pastoral charge, I would sacrifice every thing for it, in the hope that I should be strengthened faithfully to discharge the duties of that sacred office. I think I have no other reason to offer but this; the hope of being an instrument in the hands of God to the promotion of his glory is my chief motive. With regard to the doctrines of the church contained in the Articles, I conceive them to be strictly formed upon the Gospel, as setting forth salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ alone; the original depravity of man, whereby he is rendered utterly unfit for every good thing, and dead to the light of Truth, until he is renewed and born again in the Holy Spirit by the free grace of God; and as teaching that no man can claim acceptance on account of his works, because, being of ourselves incapable of doing good, they spring from the grace of God, and to *him*, therefore, must be assigned; but that they are the fruits and testimony of sound faith.

H. K. WHITE.

Supposed to have been for the "Christian Observer."

MR. EDITOR,

THE Apostle St. Paul has said, in the 1st Epistle to Timothy, 6th chap. 10th verse, that "*The love of money is the root of all evil.*" A correspondent who signs H. T. finds a great difficulty in this passage, as it stands in our version, and proposes to translate it, "*For the love of money is the root of ALL THESE evils,*" meaning some particular vices which the Apostle had just enumerated. In support of this emendation, he favours us with some critical remarks on the nature of the Greek article, and "from these considerations, and from no objections being made in the Christian Observer, he apprehends, it may be concluded, that his criticism is considered as admissible."

Now, Mr. Editor, after the very temperate and indulgent attempts of your correspondent C. L. to correct the error into which H. T. had fallen, I cannot but be surprised at such a declaration as *this* from H. T., and I cannot help deeming it my duty to declare, that I, for one, hold his criticism to be perfectly inadmissible and unnecessary. The passage exhibits no difficulty. *Avarice*, says the Apostle, is the root of all evil, but it does not follow from this that avarice is the *sole* root of all the evils. So idleness may be said to be the root of all evil, or bad company, or neglected education. The plainest understanding can comprehend the sense in which these expressions are used. The river produced all *kinds of fishes*, but it did not produce *all fishes*. Avarice is the mother of all manner of evil, but it does not follow that she is the only origin, and rise of all evils. To prove this, I refer to St. Chrysostom, who often employs the phrase in connection with different causes. I remember an instance very much in point, but which I cannot now refer to, in one of the Homilies on the Epistle to the Philip-
pians. St. Gregory Nazianzen, if it were he, who wrote the tragedy entitled, *ἡ Χρηστεὶς παθὼν*, alludes to this passage, in the following manner:—

Ἀλλ' ἐν τῷ ἀρχόντι σι φιλαργυρίας
Ἢ μὲν ταῦτα τὰ κακὰ τίθεται πάλιν

where, as there had been no such enumeration of particulars preceding, as in the passage of St. Paul, your correspondent's criticism must entirely fail.

I cannot dismiss this subject, without adverting to the subject of your correspondent's Greek criticism. His object seems to have been to prove, that the expression, *πάντων τῶν κακῶν*, is equivalent to *πάντων τούτων κακῶν*. The authorities which he adduces are miserably irrelevant. Your correspondent ought to have known, that the Ionics constantly use the article for the pronoun-relative; the Attics more rarely. He ought also to have known that the pronouns *THIS*, and *THAT*, are not relatives.

MR. EDITOR,

THE well-known passage in Josephus, wherein honourable mention is made of our blessed Saviour, has occasioned much controversy amongst the learned; and, though few valid objections have been substantiated against it, great and pious defenders of Christian faith have waived this evidence, rather than be supposed to insist on doubtful or disputed ground. The positive testimonies to the verity of Christianity are so abundant, that we need not call in the assistance of those which are in any wise ambiguous.

Yet, however willing we may be to decline the adduction of proofs like this in establishing the basis of Christian truth, it may not be unprofitable to fix our own ideas with regard to them; and, if we cannot use them as a weapon against the adversary, apply them as a defence and support to ourselves. In settling the point in question, external evidence has failed. The greater part of the manuscripts have the passage, and some want it, though these latter are neither formidable for their number nor antiquity. Let us, therefore, leave this disputed field, and try what *internal* evidence there is that the passage is genuine.

In the first place, I would ask whether it is probable that so accurate and minute an historian as Josephus would pass over in silence so important an event as the death of Jesus Christ, and the establishment of a sect which had run with amazing celerity over the cities of Syria, Asia Minor, Greece, and Italy, and had attracted universal attention by the novelty of its doctrines, and the persecution of its followers? In the next place, I would examine the passage itself, and consider whether the sentiments are such as Josephus could consistently avow. The passage runs thus:—

“About the same time lived Jesus, a wise man, if, indeed, we may call him a man; for he was the doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such as receive the truth with pleasure; and he led after him

many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He WAS THE CHRIST. And after Pilate had caused him to be crucified, upon the accusation of the chief men amongst us, they who had before loved him did not cease from their affection, for he appeared to them on the third day, being restored to life; the holy Prophets having foretold this, and a thousand other wonderful things concerning him. The sect of Christians, called from him, still remain-."

My next question then is, whether it be probable that Josephus, a Jew, well versed in the Prophetic writings, and who cannot be imagined ignorant of the importance of the Messiah's mission, would or could so coolly say, "καὶ ἐστὶς ἐὶς ὁ Χριστός," "and this was the Christ?" I think, few will hesitate to answer these questions in the negative. I think most will agree that Josephus could not have passed over in silence the death of Jesus Christ, and the origin of a sect so hostile to the Jewish institutions, and which had excited such commotions over all Europe, and Asia, wherever the Greek language was received. Certainly he would have said something, but we cannot imagine he would have said, "*And this was the Christ;*" since that would have implied a direct contradiction of his religious profession, and an acknowledgment that the Messiah, of whose *divine nature* and kingdom he, as a Jew, entertained the most enlarged notions, had been amongst them a despised and persecuted man; had been put to death without effecting any of the great temporal revolutions they were taught to expect from him; and, lastly, that, as he had lived despised and rejected by his countrymen, so were his doctrines and precepts even then despised and rejected by himself.

In order to clear up these contradictory presumptions, it will be fair to apply a rule of criticism universally acknowledged amongst those who employ themselves in the elucidation of obscure passages in the ancient writers; namely, that the notes and glosses of commentators, which were com-

monly written in the margin of manuscripts, have frequently, in the course of repeated transcriptions, crept into the text. Admitting this, we may easily resolve the difficulty. Let us suppose that some early Jewish convert, gratified by the testimony of an elegant writer, who was himself inimical to the cause; let us suppose, that he added, as a marginal note, ὁ Χριστὸς αὐτὸς ἐστίν, "*He was the Christ.*" Any Christian transcriber might make this note, and some *subsequent* transcriber might, by accident or design, incorporate it with the text. The words stand quite insulated, and the connection of the preceding and following clauses does not require them.

If we allow this reasoning to be satisfactory, the presumption will be strongly in favour of the passage, nor will its effect, as a corroborating testimony to the truth of Gospel history, be at all weakened. Josephus was a candid and polite writer, addressing himself to Romans, and anxious to adduce every thing which could aggrandize and distinguish his country. The miracles wrought of Christ, his resurrection, and the fulfilment of the prophecies concerning him, were well adapted to this end; and it is probable that Josephus, writing not to his own countrymen, but to Romans, might mention these wonders upon the credit of his followers, although he might not himself believe them. * * *

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MR. EDITOR,

I DARE say you will coincide with me in thinking that enquiries into the causes and first springs of existing evils is always salutary; and particularly so in the Christian world, where we may expect to find such a rectitude of mind as will render it sufficient to point out the sources of evil, in order to its discontinuance or prevention.

I live, Sir, in a parish where the peculiar doctrines of the Gospel are preached with faithfulness by a pious and conscientious minister, yet without any visible impression or effect. Great general depravity is observable in the majority of the parishioners, together with an utter disregard for religion; the church is thinly and negligently attended; and the want of decorum occasionally observable in the younger branches of those families who do attend it, indicates the little reverence in which divine things are held by their parents. As to the fruits of his preaching, I believe our pious pastor has the grief to observe little or none. His influence even seems unequal to the checking of glaring breaches of decency, and it is plain that he is disregarded and despised by a large proportion of his flock.

I mention these points, Mr. Editor, in order that you may be enabled to judge what is the condition of our parish; but there are other points which render its situation peculiar. You must know, Sir, that we have been blessed here, for a long term of years, with a series of good men, who have preached the word with zeal, and, until of late, with effect. Now, Sir, when the evils I have been speaking of are brought into discussion, it has been asserted that these effects are always observable in places where the Gospel has been long preached. Our minister himself, as I am told, joins in this opinion; and, satisfied that it is in the order of things that it should be so, he leaves the matter with God. This position has been so often advanced, and, on the credit of appearances, so generally received, that I have found it vain to argue against it, and the only answer I have been able to gain is, that "it is fine talking; but there is no reasoning against experience." I confess, however, that I am still incredulous on this point, and, from the little examination I have had it in my power to make, I think

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MR. EDITOR,

I do verily believe that the nick-names of controversial disputants have done as much harm as the most delusive of their theories.—If I believe in salvation by free elective grace, without any operation on the part of man, why am I to be branded with the name of *Calvinist*? or, if I believe that man hath a part to perform in preparing his heart for the reception of the Holy Spirit, can I not hold this without being saluted on all hands with the epithet *Arminian*? I am a Christian, a disciple of the Lord Jesus, and I know of no other leader, either supreme or subordinate, but *Him*. I am no follower of John Calvin; I am no follower of Arminius. I found my doctrine in the Bible, and I trust they found theirs *there* also; but I am as much indebted to them for my ideas of the process of salvation as they are to me, and no more.

Again, Sir, I am a Christian, and I trust in God that I am a true Christian: what then does a man mean when he asks me whether I am of the *Law* or of the *Gospel*—whether I am *legal* or *evangelical*? If I be a Christian, I am an humble believer of the glad tidings of salvation contained in the New Testament; and to ask me whether I am a believer in the Gospel, is to ask whether I am a Christian. But, say some, there are persons in the churches of the Lord Jesus who dispute these leading and essential points, and believe that a man is saved by the measure of his works,—persons who discredit the sanctifying influences of the Spirit from above. How, then, are we to distinguish between the false and the faithful, except by these appellations? To this I answer, that the man who, in reality, thinks he can go about the salvation of mankind, without the intervention of the Redeemer, is no Christian. The term *Mahomedan* is no nick-name for a follower of *Mahomed*, or *Jew* for an Israelite. We ought to be carefully exact in the application of names. It is a matter of some

importance, and we must not let a spirit of dangerous moderation so far influence us as to set us about seeking a new epithet for true Christians, in order that a part of mankind may not be deprived of an appellation to which they have no right.

You may think, Mr. Editor, that I betray an unbecoming asperity in these remarks; permit me to assure you that I feel none; — but I have observed among some persons, an attachment to names in the church of Christ, which bodes no good to its interests. I begin to fear lest religion should be brought to consist in names alone, and lest the too frequent use of doctrinal terms should degenerate into a mere repetition of words without meaning or effect.

From the answers to correspondents in your last number, I find a writer, whose signature is Theodosius, disapproves of the biographical sketches which have recently appeared in your work, as *un-evangelical*. Permit me to remark, Mr. Editor, that every thing which tends to the establishment of virtue and morality, and whatever discountenances vice upon proper grounds, is evangelical. You yourself allow, in your notice of this correspondent, that “in some of the sketches less is said than might have been wished, respecting some very essential doctrines of Christianity.” I need scarcely remark that Christianity does not consist in doctrines; or that a man may be a very good Christian who has very little notion of these doctrines, as a system or plan of human salvation. There are, I believe, many now living, and in former times, for obvious reasons, there have been many more, who have felt a fervent and lively faith in the Lord Jesus; who have deplored that proneness to sin which is incidental to our fallen and depraved natures; who have sincerely prayed to God for that spiritual assistance, without which they were conscious they must fall into all manner of sin; and who, finally, have walked in humble confidence with the Lord their God all the days of their lives, without ever hearing the word *evange-*

lical, or of any compendious arrangement of the Gospel system, such as, in these times, is considered as the *Shibboleth* of the faithful.

The doctrinal part of the Gospel is much too exclusively insisted upon by zealous ministers, and zealous writers. Christian preachers should, for the most part, take these doctrines as the *data*, or given foundations, of their discourses; and while they pay more particular attention to the elucidation of the practical part of our duties, and the enforcement of the moral rules laid down by the Lord Jesus and his disciples, they will do more good, by allusions to the sole spring of all human virtue in the *Grace of God*, and the means of attaining that grace through faith, than if they had made these things the leading topics of their sermons. If a congregation be constantly taught to look to God for ability to perform their respective duties, and meet their several trials, and that too through faith in the blessed Author of our salvation, they will be insensibly led to doubt their own strength, to lament their own weakness, and to pray earnestly to God to aid and assist them for Jesus Christ's sake. We all know to what such dispositions as these are the prelude, and we have reason to believe that a conversion of mind from the world to God, wrought in this manner, will be more stable than any effect of sudden impressions, or supernatural agitations of the grosser part of our natures. Let any man observe the proportion which the *doctrinal* bears to the *practical* part of the Scriptures, and then decide as to the propriety of these observations.

Besides, there are other advantages attending this mode of preaching and writing, which, though inferior, are not altogether trifling. The great features of the system of salvation contained in the New Testament, by being less argued, will, in process of time, come to be less disputed. All logicians are aware of the evils which result from attempting to prove acknowledged truths, and the unwary hearer is sometimes led to imagine, that what is so

often and laboriously defended must stand in need of defence. Few are able to comprehend a train of intricate reasoning, but all can understand that there must be great need of vindication, where vindication is so frequently attempted. By this means, also, another evil will be obviated: a great source of spiritual pride will be stopped. Congregations will see more of the true spirit of Christianity, and of the extent of their duties, and will here have proper encouragement to the performance of them, at the same time that there will not be so great an opportunity of attaining a superficial knowledge of *generals*, with which we often see Christians puffed up, to the exclusion of better things. They will learn, under circumstances like these, to think more and talk less, and they will not be quite so prone to make comparisons favourable to themselves, with people who may be less enlightened. The Christian virtues of humility, love, and charity, will, it may fairly be expected, be more attended to, because they will be more insisted upon; and so long as an assembly of Christians maintain these cardinal virtues unsullied amongst them, who will doubt that they are under the guidance of the Spirit from above?

I have extended these remarks, Mr. Editor, to a greater length than I at first intended. If you think they are likely to be useful, I shall be glad to see them printed. The subjects are undoubtedly of importance, and I should be happy to see them undertaken by an abler hand. For the present, I feel satisfaction at having brought them forward for public discussion, and if I have pressed them with earnestness, I hope it will be construed not into the acrimony of controversy, but real for the cause of the great Captain of our Salvation, and for the welfare of my Christian brethren.

MR. EDITOR,

It has been remarked, that infidelity and contempt for religion have, in all ages, kept pace with the improvements of science. The remark is, perhaps, rather too general, and the inferences, which are commonly drawn from it, by unbelievers on the one hand, and by Christians on the other, are alike mischievous and uncouth. It is not, that, increasing in intelligence as we improve in science, we pierce through the mists of superstition, and thus liberate ourselves from the trammels of education and early prejudice; but rather, that our minds become bewildered, as the scene extends before them, and thus draw conclusions which savour more of their first narrowness and prejudice, than of their present state of improvement. It is not, on the other hand, that God disapproves of the enquiries of philosophy, and visits the presumption of those who would penetrate into its recesses, with a blindness where it most concerns them to see; but rather that we stop short in our investigations, rest with too much confidence on deductions hastily formed, and slightly examined, and are thus plunged into the depth of error, by knowing, *not too much, but too little.*

True philosophy, which is the result of calm and patient investigation, the produce of a mind expanding as its views are extended, and accurately acquainted with its own powers and dependencies, will very rarely stop short of a belief in the Christian religion. We have many vouchers to the truth of this remark. No human being ever saw farther into the secrets of nature than Sir Isaac Newton, nor has the world seen many more indefatigable philosophers than Boyle, Bacon, Tycho Brahe, and Boerhaave: for various and profound learning, Sir William Jones may rank with the first scholars of any age; as, for clearness and profundity of thought, Monsieur Pascal can have few equals. Yet all these men found their enquiries

terminate in a thorough conviction of the truth of Christianity. These were all *Laymen*, and several of them, in the earlier part of their lives, had many doubts upon the subject of Religion. But they were then only in the vestibule of the temple of science; when they had reached its innermost recesses, they found all their doubts disappear in the light of full conviction.

Philosophy introduces us into a new world, she unveils the mysteries of creation, and continually expands the field of vision, and multiplies the objects of our contemplation, till we sink under a sense of our own insignificance, and of our infinite unimportance in the scale of created beings. Philosophy, therefore, does well, inasmuch as she humbles us; but if, to these expanded views of the Majesty of the Almighty, as displayed in his works, we bring those imperfect and contracted apprehensions of his other attributes, which so commonly prevail among the ignorant and unenlightened, then these discoveries of the Majesty of God will only tend to bewilder and mislead us.

It is thus that many unhappy men have been seduced into infidelity, by reasonings, apparently founded on mathematical research, but which have been, in reality, nothing more than the deductions of a confined understanding, bewildered with a little learning, and swelled with the pride of imaginary erudition.

It is thus that we reason, when, in the moments of retirement and meditation, we cast our eyes on the glorious armament of the Heavens, clothed in all the brilliancy of a star-light evening; we consider, that every little sparkle which we behold, is either a world like our own, or, what is still more astonishing, a sun, round which some other mighty sisterhood of planets hold their everlasting courses. We call to mind, that the telescope reveals to us innumerable other stars, other planets, and other suns, which are too distant to be seen by the naked eye, and that the more perfect our glasses, and the more extended our vision, the greater is the num.

ber of worlds which seem to surround us. Every step we make into the remote fields of ether, discovers to us some new stratum of stars; and when, stretching our imaginations beyond the ken of our corporeal vision, we contemplate the realms of space, and pursue the analogy we have thus discovered to its fullest extent, we are led to conclude, that their number is, indeed, immeasurable; as immeasurable as the fields of space which they diversify, and which are to be comprehended *alone* by the *Eternal Mind*. When we have enlarged our conceptions to the uttermost, and swelled out our thoughts, until they appear to embrace the whole universe, we still ask, what is there beyond that? we are still unable to assign the limits of space, or to determine where extension shall cease to be. Yet the same analogy, which has hitherto guided our reasonings, would lead us to infer, that, however far we might travel into infinite space, the same circle of worlds would surround us. We see nothing in that part of the creation, which falls under our observation, without its use, nor can we conceive that there is any portion of the universe unappropriated to some distinct purpose of the Almighty Framers. The number of worlds is, therefore, most probably as *infinite* as are the fields of space. If every grain of sand which composes our globe were itself an *earth*, their number would, probably, bear no more proportion to the *whole mass of worlds*, than any *finite* magnitude does to an *infinite*. And that these innumerable worlds are all inhabited by beings like ourselves, is a conclusion which reason and analogy alike confirm. A more awful and humiliating consideration than this cannot be presented to the human mind. We all immediately exclaim, "What are we? what is the globe we inhabit? what even is the system of which it forms a part?" The humble and pious mind is filled with gratitude to God at the consideration, and wonders, with David, how the Governor and Creator of so stupendous a scene can have such regard for "man the son of man."

The presumptuous reasoner, on the contrary, the slave of his passions, his pride, or his sensuality, shields himself under the covert of his own insignificance. "Surely," he exclaims, "God can have no regard to the actions of a being like me, who am infinitely less in comparison with the universe than a grain of dust is to the whole earth? The Divine Mind is engaged in loftier speculations than the blind wanderings of a worm like me. I may live as I please, and do as I please, without the animadversion of so stupendous a being as the great God. As for Religion, it fades into insignificance; it appears like the babblings of an idiot, after such an insight as I have gotten into the mystery of nature: nor can I ever believe, that the Son of God died for the inhabitants of this little world, when it might have been annihilated without making any blank in the system of the universe, or being missed among the innumerable orbs with which it is encompassed."

Such are the reasonings of proud and ignorant men, when slightly tinctured with philosophy. I will now endeavour to show the folly of such conclusions, and to prove that these considerations, instead of inducing us to hope for impunity on account of our insignificance, ought to convince us of the awful importance of the soul of man.

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Addressed to the Members of a Society for visiting and relieving the Sick Poor, and of which HENRY was a very active Member.

THE difference which has lately taken place between certain members of the "*Sick visiting Society*," has occasioned much pain to the pious members of the church of England; who, without being actively engaged in that Society's affairs, are still anxious for its prosperity, and for the interests of religion in general.

They anticipate consequences from this dispute, more important than the disunion of a charitable body, or the diversion of the streams of public benevolence:—they anticipate those feuds and intestine divisions, against which our Saviour has solemnly cautioned us, and which, as they are pernicious to houses and nations in general, so are they ruinous to the *house and people of Christ* in particular.

Under these circumstances, it becomes a matter of serious importance to enquire, whether the existing differences be, or be not, such as a trifling mutual concession will entirely remove; and if these differences be such, and if the concessions to be made by each party be so trifling, that no scrupulosity can take offence at them, surely, then, little exhortation will be wanting to reinstate the harmony of this religious Society, and heal the ugly wound, which while it appears to extend no farther than a few individuals, does, in fact, reach the very vitals of religion itself.

The original ground of complaint against the late visitors of the Society seems to be, that, setting aside the form appointed by the church for the visitation of the sick, they have made use of extemporaneous prayers. In this practice, it seems, they were not sanctioned by the rules of the Society. These rules restricted the visitors to Dr. Stonehouse's prayers, along with his directions for supplying the deficiencies, which must be found in every pre-composed form when applied to particular cases. If the visitors have presumed so far as to neglect these restrictions altogether, and, without being guided by the form of our church, or the directions of Dr. Stonehouse, have trusted wholly to their own resources, they have undoubtedly been guilty of imprudence, and are liable to just reprehension, for having violated a rule which had their previous assent. Such a misconduct, on the part of the visitors, called for the animadversions of the Committee; and it may be supposed, that no visitor would be displeased with animadversions so just, or

would again violate so explicit a law. But the misconduct of the visitors in this respect does not seem to afford any colour for the rescinding the original regulation, and substituting another, confining them solely to the ordinance of our church. If the public were contented with the regulation as it originally stood, and are only displeased with its infraction, the correction of the abuse is all the public can expect or desire; and it is difficult to see how their confidence will be restored by the establishment of a rule, which, as it is stricter, is more liable to infraction than the former.

The form of prayer appointed by our church for the *visitation of the sick* is truly excellent; but it never could enter into the minds of the framers of it, that it would so far answer every emergency, and adapt itself to every case, as to render all addition superfluous and impertinent. The very service itself proves this; for it presumes the sick person to be a member of the church of Christ, and in the last prayer, it presumes him to be a penitent; and as many sick persons are *neither of these*, the form cannot be adapted to all cases; and, therefore, to confine the visitor to this one form, will be to ordain, that they should pray for one description of persons only; and that as to the hardened and reprobate, and those who most need the prayers of the pious, they should either not pray by them at all, or pray *by* them, without praying *for* them. The form of our church, therefore, is not of universal application; and it seems most certain, that it entered not into the contemplation of the framers to provide for every case. I believe the practice of the most orthodox divines from the period of the Reformation confirms this opinion; and if we advert to the earlier ages of Christianity, it is very manifest, not only from Tertullian, but from St. Cyprian, that prayers adapted to particular cases were in use in social worship, and were highly approved by the bishops, at a period when the church did not want its established and sanctioned forms. A zeal for every branch of our established ordi-

nances is certainly laudable, and ought to be cherished; but we must not permit that zeal to carry us into such an attachment to them, as to exalt them out of their proper sphere, and make them objects of superstitious observance, rather than of rational esteem. But dismissing all argument, one circumstance alone ought to prevent too tenacious an adherence to the forms of prayer employed by our church in the visitation of the sick; namely, that in the present instance, they are no more sanctioned to their use, than any other *forms* which contain nothing contrary to the truth, since the whole service is a ministerial service, and is no more calculated for private use amongst laymen than is the service of matrimony. To enjoin, therefore, the sole use of these church forms, would be to enjoin a thing in itself improper as well as unprofitable; every churchman will delight to use them, when they appear fitted for the occasion; and surely, no Christian would, out of blind regard to a particular system, wish them to be used where they do not appear so adapted. The question, therefore, now seems to be, whether *forms* of prayer, and that, too, such as have been approved by the Committee, should be *alone* permitted to be used by the visitors. And here, I hope, that after a little conviction all parties will coincide. We have seen, in numerous instances, the wiliness and extravagance which have arisen from the habit of extemporaneous prayer; and, as churchmen, we see daily the admirable effects of a pre-composed form. To say that a Christian feels more warmth of affection, and fervour of spirit, while he pours forth his unpremeditated petition in unpremeditated words, than when he merely runs over a form of words, which may not be in exact unison with his feelings, is no conclusive argument in favour of extemporaneous effusions. A man may offer up his petitions with great warmth of feeling, when he is not necessarily more spiritual and devout. There is animal feeling as well as spiritual, and the one may

very easily be mistaken for the *other*. An orator or a poet, reciting his own compositions, may feel a similar flame kindling in his bosom.

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ON THE DIGNITY OF THE PULPIT.

THE dignity of the pulpit cannot be too energetically enforced upon ministers, and those destined for the holy office. The lamentable effects which we daily observe to ensue from the prostitution of this dignity are a sufficient proof that it is highly displeasing in the eyes of God, and deleterious to the true interests of religion. It is to the defection of this dignity that I attribute a great portion of the undisguised contempt, and profane ridicule, with which the profession of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is now so universally treated. *Truth* in her native garb will command respect; but when she is either tricked out in vulgar ornaments, or concealed beneath the coarse habiliments of meanness and ignorance, it is not to be wondered at that she be received by the world with derision and contumely.

A preacher ought to regard himself, in Scripture phrase, as a "vessel of honour set apart to God;" as a mean by which the Almighty Father of the universe makes known his will to mankind, and directs his people into the paths of truth and holiness. He ought, therefore, to take heed that he be duly qualified by learning, and a chaste and correct taste, to fill, with propriety, the sacred function to which he has been called by the Divine Will. I say, he ought to beware, with all possible anxiety, lest, by any negligence or carelessness on his part, he disgrace, instead of honouring, the sacred office, and tempt the God before whom he ministers to withdraw from him that countenance, without which all his exertions will avail nothing. The

qualifications of human learning are not of trivial importance to a priest.

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ON OUR ESTIMATE OF HAPPINESS.

THE estimates which we make of human life, its pleasures, and its pains, are commonly inaccurate. That which seems desirable is not always good, nor is the possession of the objects of our warmest wishes always a real benefit. This is true, not only when we covet the means of animal gratification, and pursue objects which from their agreeableness, and the delights they promise, are most likely to blind our judgments and lull our vigilance; but even in instances where the passions seem to be enlisted on the side of the virtues, and when the heart pants only for the fair, the beautiful, and the honourable.

The most ignorant of men can conceive that the possession of learning, wit, and genius, is honourable and gratifying; and those who think with more precision, reckon the pleasures of intellect the most exquisite, at the same time that they are the most innocent, and the farthest removed from what is sensual and gross. Yet it would admit of much controversy, whether the happiness of mankind has been increased or diminished by the progress of science; and still more, whether the gifts of genius, and the acquirements of study, confer any additional happiness on him by whom they are possessed. If it be granted, that the arts (which are the parents of science) have administered much to the comforts and enjoyments of life, they have likewise created wants, of which we were before ignorant, and have fostered luxury, by the readiness with which they have adapted themselves to every inconvenience. If the increase of knowledge has opened to us new sources of gratification, and increased our stock of tainted pleasures, it has likewise opened our eyes

to the miseries of our station; given us a keener susceptibility of the calamities of life, and, by inducing habits of continued reflection, has exaggerated our sympathies, and stretched out, to a greater extent, those fine threads of social and relative attachment, which are continually conveying some jarring vibration to the heart. That the increase of knowledge has a progressive influence on our feelings and sympathies, is manifest from the history of nations, as well as from that of individuals. The savage in the rudest state of humanity has few sympathies; his cares and fears extend but little beyond himself; he exposes his aged parents when they become useless to him, and he murders the infant whose deformity disgusts him, or whose puny appearance gives cause to apprehend that it may be burthenome to him. As he becomes more civilised, the relative attachments grow stronger, yet still not so strong as entirely to overcome the love of self. Thus, though Niobe weeps herself to stone over the bodies of her dead children, yet Medea imbrues her hands in the blood of her infant brother, and scatters his limbs in her flight, in order to retard the pursuit of her father. In the next stage, the bonds of attachment become wider than those of blood. Pylades persists in his resolution of dying with Orestes, in spite of the entreaties and remonstrances of his friend; and the servants of the younger Cyrus, at a period of barbaric history, which may answer to that of Pylades and Orestes in Grecian annals, enthusiastically immolate themselves on the body of their benevolent master. The attachment of the sexes also grows more refined and sentimental, as knowledge and civilisation extend themselves, and differs as widely from *that passion*, whose only gratifications are *sensual*, as a covenant of mutual convenience, from a covenant of affection.

In process of time, as the mind begins to soar above material things, and penetrate into the obscure regions of the moral world, it makes new discoveries as to the condition of man, busies itself with the probable chances of futurity, anticipates a

thousand ills, which it perceives are but too inseparable from our unhappy state, and feels, in the apprehension of calamity, all the miseries of its reality. In this way, when the mind has been long accustomed to dwell with melancholy attention on the ills of life, to examine its promises and their issues; to contemplate the speedy termination of all its cares, and to consider the dark cloud which envelopes that termination; it becomes too well skilled in the chances and changes of mortality, and neglects to enjoy the present good, through the apprehension that it may be dashed from its lips before it be tasted.

The enlargement, therefore, of our views, and the increase of our powers, while it exalts the human character, and draws it a step nearer to its great original, does not necessarily augment the happiness of life. The condition of the wealthy and potent is more enviable than that of the poor and despised only in appearance. Wealth has its cares, and dominion its anxieties; and wealth and power often serve but to increase, by indulgence, those evils which are the fundamental causes of all human misery. So, likewise, wisdom and learning, and science, though they may exalt the condition of humanity, can do little towards the alleviation of its woes, or the prevention of its misfortunes.

Yet it must be allowed, that the evils of learning do not extend so much beyond its immediate votaries, while its benefits are felt over the whole community. Though the pale suitor of wisdom may find by daily experience that the fruit of the tree of knowledge is still the fruit of bitterness, and though he may languish under the pressure of imaginary ills, and find every joy shadowed with melancholy, and every prospect clouded with care and apprehension, yet society at large will feel the good effects of his pains. To his labours will men owe the downfall of superstition and bigotry, the general diffusion of reason, the confirmation of moral truth, and the substitution of the pleasures of intellect for those of sense. These are benefits of such a magnitude, that

we might be induced to deify the author of them ; but their abuse is so common, and so certainly consequent on their possession, that we again hesitate to place them in the list of benefits, or their author in the roll of benefactors. We no sooner dispel the mists of superstition, than infidelity rears aloft her standard, and beats to arms. We cannot teach men to make reason their guide, but presently they disdain every other help, and immolate religion on the altars of their pride. And when at length we have proved that the pleasures of * * *

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ON THE HUMAN MIND.

THE economy of creation is every where pregnant with wonder ; but nature has no mystery so astonishing, no secret so dark, as the human mind. It was in this respect, in respect to his reasoning powers, that man was originally made in the express image of God ; and it is from hence that the same inscrutable gloom hangs over that wonderful part of our being which is called *MIND*, as shrouds the King of the universe himself, and *all his attributes*, from the vulgar gaze.

Although we are sometimes able, obscurely, to trace our ratiocinative faculties in the course of their operations, yet our observations tend to little more than to excite astonishment at the subtlety of their transitions, and the swiftness with which they traverse all nature, and connect, by an almost imperceptible link, ideas the most distant. Being thus little acquainted with the mind at large, we know it merely by its effects, and consider *genius*, or natural superiority of intellect, only in connection with the object to which it is directed, and in which it excels ; but the ethereal and evanescent quality in which genius more particularly consists, seems to

clude our keenest observation. The power of combining a larger number of ideas must always be regarded as a characteristic of a great mind; but it is so far from being the sole constituent of genius, that alone, it would probably produce no movements of excellence. If it were unattended with the warmth and enthusiasm, which is another, and more universal, mark of genius, it would want an adequate motive for exertion; it would soon grow cold and languid in its efforts, and would achieve nothing, because it would plan little. There are even adventitious circumstances, which, though they add nothing to the powers of the mind themselves, are, perhaps, necessary to call them into action, and without which they might lie unnoticed and undiscovered. I believe that even Pascal himself, although so many wonders are told of the irresistible impulse by which he was led to the mathematics, was indebted for his first inclination to those studies to the conversation of his father, who was deeply versed in them.

Milton was blind, and Homer is supposed to have been blind; and where do we meet with such strong and characteristic painting as in Milton and Homer. Those works of the former poet which were written before the loss of his sight, beautiful and glowing as they are, do not possess either the strength of delineation or the bold sublimity of conception, remarkable in his epics. It may be thought paradoxical to assert that he would never have produced the *Paradise Lost* had he never lost his sight, but that it had considerable influence on *that* work, will, on reflection, appear not improbable.

A thousand springs, unseen even to the eye of the minute observer, contribute to the production of a work of genius. The sophists imagine that man was once a monkey, and inhabited the woods, but that he accidentally learned the use of the muscle, by the contraction of which the thumb is brought in contact with the fore-finger; that, from the dexterity which this discovery gave him, he gradually improved his faculties, and heaped discovery upon

discovery, until he arose to the summit of science and of art. This ridiculous story may be applied with more propriety to the *mind*.—The energies of a mighty genius lie dormant, like a treasure, hidden even from its owner, until some happy chance, some fortunate accident, gives them the first impulse, and awakes their owner to a sense of his unobserved powers. From this period the progress of genius may be gradual, but it is sure: when once the enchanted spring has been touched, the mind will recur with eagerness to its newly discovered pursuit: it will hang with a secret and inexpressible fondness over its hidden beauties; it will expatiate on all its varying appearances, and trace its unfolding graces, until it comes forth prepared to astonish mankind with pure and original excellence. In works of mere genius, the fire and animation which stamps their sterling worth upon them is often caught from the mere reflection of these first transports; a kind of sacred sublimity seems to dwell upon every thing connected with that object to which the genius is particularly bent, and as often as it is recalled to the mind the fervour and enthusiasm of former periods is again and again excited.

To this cause I attribute the particularities of composition and character which have distinguished some of the poets. Some have manifested peculiar fondness for night; some for ocean scenery; others for woods, and groves; and, among the incidents of mortal life, for subjects which touch on grief, or love, fortitude, complaint, death. So, likewise, many have been able to write only at particular periods. Milton's vein flowed only from the autumnal to the vernal equinox; and Thomson seldom composed except in the autumn, and during the night season. Poetry, with them, was connected with particular impressions, which, probably, they were themselves unable to trace, but from which it was in no wise happily to be separated. Dr. Johnson has sneered at these fancies, as he is pleased to call them; but when he has defined in *what true genius* consists, he may be permitted to decide on matters which affect its essence.

Conceiving it, then, to be at all events in a greater or less degree true, that genius depends on fortuitous circumstances, and external impressions, the poet's position will appear most certain, that,

“ Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air.”

This reflection might be a mournful one to a disciple of Epicurus : but, confiding in the existence of an all-good and wise Providence, we trust that no man of real genius has been permitted to wear away the day of mortality in obscurity and neglect, but whose talents, had they been called into action, would have been ruinous to mankind, and destructive to himself.

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ON HUMAN LIFE.

WE may with justice term this life a state of expectation. Though all human happiness be at best comparative only, it is made to consist more in anticipation than in actual enjoyment. The things we looked forward to with longing, become insipid in possession. Every new acquisition serves only to open new prospects, until the life of man languishes to its close, and the still unsatisfied eye turns to a state of future existence, and rests at length on objects exempt from human vicissitude. Sad as this representation may seem, it is yet the fairer side of the picture of our mortal affairs. There is something pleasing in the contemplation of successful exertion, however unsatisfactory its object, when attained ; but even this source of pleasure is denied to a considerable portion of mankind, the numerous children of disappointment, and misfortune, who only form schemes of happiness to see them frus-

trated, and build hopes but to lament over their untimely destruction.

The sanguine principle implanted in our bosoms by the wise Author of our being, is the joint source of our sweetest pleasures, and our most cruel woes. Disappointment treads swiftly on the heels of hope. We form projects, and see them blasted. Again from the ashes of the former arises some new pursuit, which is again destroyed, and again renewed, in a perpetual series of annihilation, and re-production, until the mind, like the long-used bow, loses its elasticity, and the eyes are at length opened when their late acquired clearness can no longer avail.

If the position be true, that our happiness consists rather in anticipation than in enjoyment, it is also true, that, with regard to earthly bliss, the man of obtuse faculties and sluggish disposition has infinitely the advantage of the man of talents and exalted understanding. The one founds his plans in mediocrity and moderation: he follows his aim tardily, but with certainty. His probation is fortunately for him extended, and it is free alike from the anxiety of uncertainty, and the apprehension of danger. But the other grasps at worlds. He would wield the thunders of Jehovah, and direct the fate of the universe; he aims at improbabilities, and he expends all his strength on a stroke; his expectations grow with his failures, until at length the bubble is dispelled, and he looks on the past as the uneasy tracings of a feverish dream.

Here, then, are the tables turned upon wisdom. The very philosopher, who surveys, as from an eminence, the deluded crowds who are pursuing the rainbow of promise beneath him, falls into the very folly he affects to pity, and while he shakes his head at the vagaries of his poor fellow-sojourners, turns to contemplate with flattering delight some visionary fabric of his own, ten thousand times more unsubstantial, as it is infinitely more refined.

OMNIPRESENCE.

If we allow that there is a *God*, it will follow that he is infinite in all his attributes. Since he who is the fountain of all perfection in created things cannot but be himself perfect, and as his being is infinite, so are his attributes. They cannot be less than infinite, because God is an infinite being; if he have power, it must be unbounded; if he be present any where, he must be present every where; if his knowledge extend to one thing, or to one period, it must extend to all things, and to all times. Again, we cannot doubt that God's power is infinite, and, if his power be infinite, all his other attributes are infinite; for infinity is the perfection of any quality, and we cannot suppose that a God of infinite power would possess any quality in an *imperfect* degree. Considering it proved that God is omnipresent, it follows that he is omnipotent; for as God is an immaterial being in a mode incomprehensible to the human understanding, his knowledge is not confined to any particular place, but is in all places at once, and that too in its fullest perfection. In the human mind the brain is the seat of reason and perception, and our ideas are conveyed to it by the senses of sight, feeling, hearing, taste, and smell; but the mind of God is in all parts of space at once. The whole universe is, as it were, his sensorium.

The omniscience and omnipresence of God, then, ought to fill our hearts with fear and trembling. These sovereign perfections of his nature ought to be unintermittingly before our eyes, that so we might walk with more wariness and circumspection, and might be anxious to chase every image and idea of pollution from entering into breasts on which the eye of God is incessantly fixed. What would the wicked man say could he perfectly comprehend the exquisite perfection of God's omniscience? He would then know, that in moments

of debasing and guilty pleasure, the eye of the all-pure God is fixed steadfastly upon him; that in darkness and in solitude God is with him; and that his justice has only to say, *Strike*, and the uplifted arm of his vengeance falls heavy upon him. What terrors would agitate the mind of the hypocrite, did he fully comprehend, and believe the omniscience of God! Could he bear to think, that, in the very acts of dissembled adoration, the scrutinising gaze of the Lord of Truth was penetrating into the innermost recesses of his vile and corrupted heart. But wherefore do I speak of the profligate or deceitful only? Let the man here stand forth who can say he does not shrink from the idea, that the inspecting view of the Almighty is unceasingly fixed upon his heart. You, who have on this day joined in the worship of your Lord and Saviour, have your thoughts never wandered, or hath no imagination obtruded itself into your hearts, which you would blush to expose to the eye of your fellow-mortals? And if they would disgrace you in their eyes, if you would recoil from the animadversions of your companions in sin, how shall you dare to expose them to the examination of HIM, who is All-Holy, All-Righteous, and All-Wise! But, in truth, you neither believe nor understand this important attribute of the Deity. We are apt at all times to reason of things *spiritual* by things *temporal*, and to compare *infinite* things with *finite*. Thus arguing of God, as if his capacities were like our own, we conceive that he is too much engaged with the government of the universe, the regulation of the heavenly bodies, or the revolutions of states and empires, to bestow any attention to the actions of poor passing worms like us. But is this reasonable? We know that God is omniscient. We know his knowledge extends every where, that he dwells every where, that he is found in the atom as completely as in the universe. If then he know every thing, he must know every thing *perfectly*; for if he knew any thing partially, or not entirely, he would have something imperfect, which is con-

trary to his nature. God, therefore, knows every thing that passes in our inmost souls *better* than we do ourselves: he reads our most secret thoughts: all the cogitations of our hearts pass in review before him; and he is as perfectly and entirely employed in the scrutiny of the thoughts and actions of an individual, as in the regulation of the most important concerns of the universe. This is what we cannot comprehend, but it is what, according to the light of reason, must be true, and, according to Revelation, is indeed true. God can do nothing imperfectly, and we may form some idea of his superintending knowledge, by conceiving, what is indeed the *truth*, that all the powers of the Godhead are employed, and solely employed, in the observation and examination of the conduct of one individual. I say this is *indeed* the case, because all the powers of the Godhead are employed upon the *least* as well as upon the greatest concerns of the universe; and the whole mind and power of the Creator are as exclusively employed upon the formation of a grub, as of a world. God knows every thing perfectly, and he knows every thing perfectly *at once*. This, to a human understanding, would breed confusion, but there can be no confusion in the Divine understanding, because confusion arises from imperfection. Thus God, without confusion, beholds as distinctly the actions of every man, as if that man were the only created being, and the Godhead were solely employed in observing him. Let this thought fill your minds with awe and with remorse.

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“ And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians.”

Acts, vii. 22.

THE natural weakness of the human understanding, and the circumstance of its being confined, in all its operations, to reasoning from material objects, or things *seen* alone, sufficiently prove the necessity of revelation to inform us concerning the things which *are not seen*. Mere animal instinct, or the light of nature, might have sufficed for regulating the economy of our bodily existence ; but as our being was endowed with an immortal principle, and we were taught almost by intuition, to look forward to a time when the bonds of matter should be dissolved, and we yet live,—some better information was to be expected concerning this future life and its conditions, than we could gather from our own confined and defective reasonings. The moment we regard ourselves as creatures destined to outlive the wreck of matter, and fill a station in that spiritual world which shall rise upon the ruins of this material one, a new view opens before our eyes, and we become anxious to be informed of the nature of the future state, and in what degree our happiness therein may be dependent on ourselves. That our felicity hereafter is conditional, the most *barbarous* nations seem to understand ; and that there is any condition, except those of moral life, and benevolence towards our fellows, *the most enlightened*, when unvisited by the Gospel, have not discovered. Keen and penetrating philosophers among the heathen, have conjectured that man must have fallen from a happier condition, since the existing depravity and misery of the race could only be reconciled with the benevolence of the Supreme being on such a supposition.

The golden age of the poets is only a figurative representation of this primitive state, and they represent the occasion of the declension of mankind

from their first happy condition to have been the gradual desertion of their deities, of whom Astrea, or Justice, was the last who lingered amongst them, and whose departure closed the age of Gold, and introduced that of Iron.

So far, then, has the light of reason been able to penetrate. Yet a mystery still hangs over this period in the history of the world; there is yet something which the eye of man cannot reach; there is yet a gulf he cannot penetrate. The tradition of a fall from a state of primitive innocence is universal: but how far has this event affected our hopes of the future? How, in our present lapsed condition, overrun with vice and wickedness, are we to be rendered acceptable in the eyes of an all-pure God? No answer could be given to these questions, except by a revelation from Almighty God himself: and such a revelation was in due time given to mankind. These mysteries, so far as they really concerned us, were cleared up, and God condescended to explain to us the course of his dealings with us, and to point out the means of attaining everlasting life.

While men were yet few and simple, God enabled them to walk according to his will, and instructed them where to look for the reparation of the damages their nature had sustained at the fall, by immediate revelation of the Holy Spirit: but when mankind had increased in numbers, and in refinement, near 2000 years after the Creation, *He* deposited, in the hands of the people whom, for this purpose, he had peculiarly chosen to himself, the written revelation of his will; and to this people he, from time to time, made himself known by the mouths of holy men, until the coming of the Messiah, who was the completion of prophecy, the key to all mystery, and the herald of light and life to the whole human race.

The first revelation given from God to man was that of Moses, wherein the history of the world, from the creation, was shortly and clearly deduced;

the situation of mankind, in consequence of the transgression of our first parents, delineated; and a rule of life and religion laid down, adapted to the condition of the people for whom it was more immediately intended.

The books of the Pentateuch contain the foundation of our religion and our hopes. It is true, the glorious dispensation of the Gospel is in them but darkly shadowed; yet they sufficed for the salvation of the chosen seed, until the fulfilment of God's purposes came to pass. In them we trace evident and undoubtful marks of the divine hand: and if they did not sufficiently attest themselves to the hearts and understandings of all Christians, by their intimate connection with the first principles of our religion, if all other evidence of their divine origin were lost or thrown aside, there would be sufficient ground for believing them to be the work of a man inspired by God, from external circumstances: from a comparison with the manners, laws, and religion of other nations at this period; from their ideas of the Deity, their traditional accounts of the creation; and from the general state of learning and knowledge in the world at the period they were written. On the present occasion, we mean to examine more particularly into the wisdom of the Egyptians mentioned in the text; to compare their superstitions and traditions with the Mosaic history and religion; and to examine, as far as the lapse of years, and the particular mode of transmitting their knowledge adopted by the Egyptians, will permit, how far it was possible for Moses to have availed himself of the wisdom of the Egyptians in framing the divine books.

1. The religion of the Egyptians, even at this early period, as may be collected from the Greek historians, was Polytheism, in its wildest and most extravagant degree. They worshipped an infinite variety of deities, of whom the chief seem to have been Osiris and Isis. After these the bull Apis was held in sovereign adoration, and the long catalogue of their gods was filled with other animals,

and every plant of the most ignoble and contemptible species. To such folly and blindness had God given up this unhappy people, that they paid all kinds of slavish and servile obeisance to the shrines of these senseless and stupid divinities; they maintained their priests in the greatest opulence, and held all other religions, even that of the true God, in the utmost abhorrence for their sakes. Although it does not appear that, in Egypt, as in Chaldea, the priests were the sole guardians of their knowledge as well as their religion; but, on the other hand, that they were distinct orders of men, yet the two interests were so far blended, that, while they asserted the antiquity of their science, they maintained that their religion was coeval. The spirits, by whose power they professed to perform wonders and invert the order of nature, must have been the objects of adoration from the first cultivation of the magical arts amongst them. Now it is observed, that the conjuration of spirits is the first species of knowledge affected amongst uncivilized nations, and the Egyptians pretended to have traces of science amongst them for several hundred thousand years beyond the period of the creation, according to Moses. Of the traditions concerning the creation, preserved among the Egyptians, we know nothing. Scarcely any of the ancient religions made their gods even older than the world we inhabit; and we cannot for a moment suppose, that they attributed the creation of the universe to gods, whom they themselves saw born and expire, and who were but branches; and, moreover, subordinate branches of the animal creation. They probably, therefore, like many of the ancient philosophers, believed the world eternal, or else ascribed its origin to the natural and spontaneous properties of pre-existent matter; a doctrine which had likewise its abettors among the luminaries of the heathen world. They never thought of affixing to their gods more than a mundane and temporal dominion, and their worship was rather to be considered as a series of rites, on which

they believed their good fortune depended, than the heartfelt adoration of an All-intelligent and Almighty Deity.

II. As for the sciences on which the Egyptians so greatly prided themselves, we shall find that their pretensions to them were unquestionably legitimate, but that their knowledge was still deformed with superstition and clouded with mystery. They appear to have derived their knowledge of astronomy from the Chaldeans. This people, who inhabited a plain and level country, particularly adapted to the observation of the heavenly bodies, early addicted themselves to this study; and although Belus, the reputed inventor of the science amongst them, is placed by some chronologers after Moses in the order of time, yet on the testimony of the Greeks, who were jealous of their pre-eminence, they had observations on record to a much earlier period. Geometry is another art which they must early have cultivated: for as the annual inundations of the Nile destroy or obliterate the boundary-line and land-marks, they would otherwise have had no means of ascertaining every man's individual property after the reflux of the waters. That land had been appropriated long before Moses' time, is plain from the policy of Joseph, who, during the seven years of famine, bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh in return for corn, and then restored it to the proprietors, on condition of their paying a proportion of the annual increase into the treasury. Besides these, we may gather from what was known in after times, that they had a particular predilection for many branches of physics, and endeavoured to penetrate into the mysteries of the material and immaterial world. Their physicians were early distinguished. We read of them embalming the body of Israel; and we are told, that they cultivated the medical art with so much care and minute attention, that they had separate physicians for every part of the body. These arts, however, seem to have been but subordinate pursuits. The great objects of atten-

tion were the occult sciences. It was the magicians who swayed the minds of the people with a power almost imperial. It was the magicians who spread their fame over all the civilized world, and attached a reverential awe to the name of an Egyptian. The mysteries of these arts the magi preserved with the most scrupulous care; they were imparted to none but their immediate descendants; they were not entrusted to writing, but were locked up in the breasts of their jealous possessors. There is reason to believe, that a portion of judicial astrology was mixed with their magic; but they seem to have relied more on the incantation of spirits for the accomplishment of their purposes. Who does not read the accounts contained in the book of Exodus of the wonders they performed in emulation of Moses, with surprise and astonishment? This prompt reduplication of the miracles wrought by the power of God is such as we cannot readily conceive to have been effected by art, or simulated by deception; and there remains no other possible mode of accounting for their power, than by presuming that they did really maintain that intercourse with fallen spirits to which they pretended. I am aware that the sneers of vain philosophy will be directed against such a supposition, but the course of all history, sacred and profane, countenances the idea; and after the body of evidence afforded by the ancient writers on this point, to express unqualified and unhesitating disbelief, can only argue an utter ignorance of the grounds on which we can alone judge in this mysterious subject. Let any one, however, read with attention the history of the ancient world, and he will see strong reason for believing that a very great part of mankind was given up to the government of unclean spirits. He will find that their gods were rather devils, worse than the very worst of their followers; that their religious institutions were a compound of imposture, avarice, and the most abominable wickedness: yet he will find their oracles often true in their predictions, and maintaining

for a long series of years the reputation of being inspired. It was thus in Egypt at the time of the Exodus; the spirits of darkness held uncontrolled dominion over the people through the medium of the magicians, and had arrived at such a pitch of audacity, as almost to fly in the face of Almighty God himself, and measure their powers with his. But we see in the Scripture how they were defeated. They could not follow the arm of the Lord in his wonders. They could not even save their unhappy votaries from his plagues; for "*the magicians could not stand before Moses, because of the boils, for the boil was with the magician.*" That they knew the evil character of the spirits they served, and were aware of their subordination to the true Jehovah, is manifest from the confession extorted by the wonders wrought by Moses; when, unable to equal him in his miracles, they exclaimed to Pharaoh, "*This is the finger of God.*"

III. Under such masters as these, then, was Moses educated; such was the wisdom, in which he is stated by the text to have been instituted. Now, we might fairly expect to find some traces of this his first learning in the historical and philosophical part of the Pentateuch. We can conceive no reason which could induce him to discredit the antiquity of the world, as maintained by his masters, the Egyptians, or why he should expose himself, and his countrymen, to contempt, by affixing the date of the creation at a period comparatively so recent, except he knew and confided in the authority and direction of a power that could not err. But Moses

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REFLECTIONS.

ON PRAYER.

If there be any duty which our Lord Jesus Christ seems to have considered as more indispensably necessary towards the formation of a true Christian, it is that of prayer. He has taken every opportunity of impressing on our minds the absolute need in which we stand of the Divine assistance, both to persist in the paths of righteousness, and to fly from the allurements of a fascinating but dangerous life; and he has directed us to the only means of obtaining that assistance, in constant and habitual appeals to the throne of Grace. Prayer is certainly the foundation-stone of the superstructure of a religious life: for a man can neither arrive at true piety, nor persevere in its ways when attained, unless, with sincere and continued fervency, and with the most unaffected anxiety, he implore Almighty God to grant him his perpetual grace, to guard and restrain him from all those derelictions of heart to which we are, by nature, but too prone. I should think it an insult to the understanding of a Christian to dwell on the necessity of prayer; and, before we can harangue an infidel on its efficacy, we must convince him, not only that the Being to whom we address ourselves really exists, but that he condescends to hear and to answer our humble supplications. As these objects are foreign to my present purpose, I shall take my leave of the necessity of prayer, as acknowledged by all to whom this paper is addressed, and shall be content to expatiate on the strong inducements which we have to lift up our souls to our Maker in the language of supplication and of praise; to depict the happiness which results to the man of true piety

from the exercise of this duty ; and, lastly, to warn mankind, lest their fervency should carry them into the extreme of fanaticism, and their prayers, instead of being silent and unassuming expressions of gratitude to their Maker, and humble entreaties for his favouring grace, should degenerate into clamorous vociferations, and insolent gesticulations, utterly repugnant to the true spirit of prayer, and to the language of a creature addressing his Creator.

There is such an exalted delight to a regenerate being in the act of prayer, and he anticipates with so much pleasure, amid the toils of business, and the crowds of the world, the moment when he shall be able to pour out his soul without interruption into the bosom of his Maker, that I am persuaded that the degree of desire or repugnance which a man feels to the performance of this amiable duty, is an infallible criterion of his acceptance with God. Let the unhappy child of dissipation — let the impure voluptuary boast of his short hours of exquisite enjoyment: even in the degree of bliss they are infinitely inferior to the delight of which the righteous man participates in his private devotions ; while, in their opposite consequences, they lead to a no less wide extreme than heaven and hell, a state of positive happiness, and a state of positive misery. If there were no other inducement to prayer, than the very gratification it imparts to the soul, it would deserve to be regarded as the most important object of a Christian ; for nowhere else could he purchase so much calmness, so much resignation, and so much of that peace and repose of spirit in which consists the chief happiness of this otherwise dark and stormy being. But to prayer, besides the inducement of momentary gratification, the very self-love implanted in our bosoms would lead us to resort, as the chief good ; for our Lord hath said, “ Ask, and it shall be given to thee ; knock, and it shall be opened ; ” and not a supplication made in the true spirit of faith and humility, but shall be answered ; not a

quest which is urged with unfeigned submission and lowliness of spirit, but shall be granted, if it be consistent with our happiness, either temporal or eternal. Of this happiness, however, the Lord God is the only judge; but thus we do know, that whether our requests be granted, or whether they be refused, 'tis working together for our ultimate benefit.

When I say that such of our requests and solicitations as are urged in the true spirit of meekness, humility, and submission, will indubitably be answered, I would wish to draw a line between supplications so urged, and those violent and vehement exclamations which, under the name of prayers, are sometimes heard to proceed from the lips of men professing to worship God in the spirit of meekness and truth. Surely I need not impress on any reasonable mind, how directly contrary these inflamed and bombastic harangues are to every precept of Christianity, and every idea of the deference due from a poor worm, like man, to the omnipotent and all-great God. Can we hesitate a moment as to which is more acceptable in his sight—the diffident, and lowly, the retiring, and yet solemn and impressive form of worship of our excellent church; and the wild and laboured exclamations, the authoritative and dictatory clamours of men, who, forgetting the immense distance at which they stand from the awful Being whom they address, boldly, and with unblushing front, speak to their God as to an equal, and almost dare to prescribe to his infinite wisdom the steps it shall pursue? How often has the silent, yet eloquent, eye of misery wrung from the reluctant hand of charity that relief which has been denied to the loud and importunate beggar? And is heaven to be taken by storm? Are we to wrest the Almighty from his purposes by vociferation and importunity? God forbid! It is a fair and a reasonable, though a melancholy, inference, that the Lord shuts his ears against prayers like these, and leaves the deluded supplicants to follow the impulse of their own headstrong passions, without a guide, and destitute of every ray of his pure and holy light.

Those mock apostles, who thus disgrace the worship of the true God by their extravagance, are very fond of appearing to imitate the conduct of our Saviour during his mortal peregrination: but how contrary were his habits to those of these deluded men! Did he teach his disciples to insult the ear of Heaven with noise and clamour? Were his precepts those of fanaticism and passion? Did he inflame the minds of his hearers with vehement and declamatory harangues? Did he pray with all this confidence—this arrogance—this assurance? How different was his conduct! He divested wisdom of all its pomp and parade, in order to suit it to the capacities of the meanest of its auditors. He spake to them in the lowly language of parable and similitude; and when he prayed, did he instruct his hearers to attend to him with a loud chorus of Amens? Did he (participating as he did in the Godhead), did he assume the tone of sufficiency, and the language of assurance? Far from it! He prayed, and he instructed his disciples to pray, in lowliness and meekness of spirit; he instructed them to approach the Throne of Grace with fear and trembling, silently, and with the deepest awe and veneration; and he evinced, by his condemnation of the prayer of the self-sufficient Pharisee, opposed to that of the diffident publican, the light in which those were considered in the eyes of the Lord, who, setting the terrors of his Godhead at defiance, and boldly building on their own worthiness, approached him with confidence and pride.

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THERE is nothing so indispensably necessary towards the establishment of future earthly, as well as heavenly happiness, as early impressions of piety. For as religion is the sole source of all human welfare and peace, so habits of religious reflection, in the spring of life, are the only means of arriving at

good man : of him who rises in the morning with cheerfulness to praise his Creator for all the good he hath bestowed upon him, and to perform with studious exactness the duties of his station ; and lays himself down on his pillow in the evening in the sweet consciousness of the applause of his own heart. Place this man on the stormy seas of misfortune and sorrow—press him with afflictive dispensations of Providence—snatch from his arms the object of his affections—separate him for ever from all he loved and held dear on earth, and leave him isolated and an outcast in the world,—he is calm—he is composed—he is grateful—he weeps, for human nature is weak, but he still preserves his composure and resignation—he still looks up to the Giver of all good with thankfulness and praise, and perseveres with calmness and fortitude in the paths of righteousness. His disappointments cannot overwhelm him, for his chief hopes are placed far, very far, beyond the reach of human vicissitude. "He hath chosen that good part, which none can take away from him."

Here then lies the great excellence of religion and piety ; they not only lead to *eternal* happiness, but to the happiness of this world ; they not only ensure everlasting bliss, but they are the sole means of arriving at that degree of felicity which this dark and stormy being is capable of, and are the sole supports in the hour of adversity and affliction. How infatuated then must that man be, who can wilfully shut his eyes to his own welfare, and deviate from the paths of righteousness, which lead to bliss ! Even allowing him to entertain the erroneous notion that religion does not lead to happiness in this life, his conduct is incompatible with every idea of a reasonable being. In the *Spectator* we find the following image employed to induce a conviction of the magnitude of this truth : supposing the whole body of the earth were a great ball, or mass of the finest sand, and that a single grain, or particle of this sand, should be annihilated every thousand years ; supposing then that you had it in

your choice to be happy all the while this prodigious mass was consuming, by this slow method, till there was not a grain of it left, on condition that you were to be miserable ever after; or supposing that you might be happy for ever after, on condition you would be miserable till the whole mass of sand were thus annihilated, at the rate of one sand a thousand years; which of these two cases would you make your choice?

It must be confessed that in this case so many *

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THE life of man is transient and unstable; its fairest passages are but a lighter shade of evil, and yet those passages form but a disproportionate part of the picture. We all seek Happiness, though with different degrees of avidity, while the fickle object of our pursuits continually evades the grasp of those who are the most eager in the chase; and, perhaps, at last throws herself into the arms of those who had entirely lost all sight of her, and who, when they are most blessed with her enjoyments, are least conscious that they possess her. Were the objects in which we placed the consummation of our wishes always virtuous, and the means employed to arrive at the bourn of our desires uniformly good, there can be little doubt that the aggregate of mankind would be as happy as is consistent with the state in which they live: but, unfortunately, vicious men pursue vicious ends by vicious means, and, by so doing, not only ensure their own misery, but they overturn and destroy the fair designs of the wiser and the better of their kind. Thus he who has no idea of a bliss beyond the gratification of his brutal appetites, involves in the crime of seduction the peace and the repose of a good and happy family, and an individual act of evil extends itself by a continued impulse over a large portion of society. It is thus that men of bad minds become the pest

of the societies of which they happen to be members. It is thus that the virtuous among men pay the bitter penalty of the crimes and follies of their unworthy fellows.

Men who have passed their whole lives in the lap of luxury and enjoyment, have no idea of misery beyond that of which they happen to be the individual objects

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THE END